The Middlebury Campus

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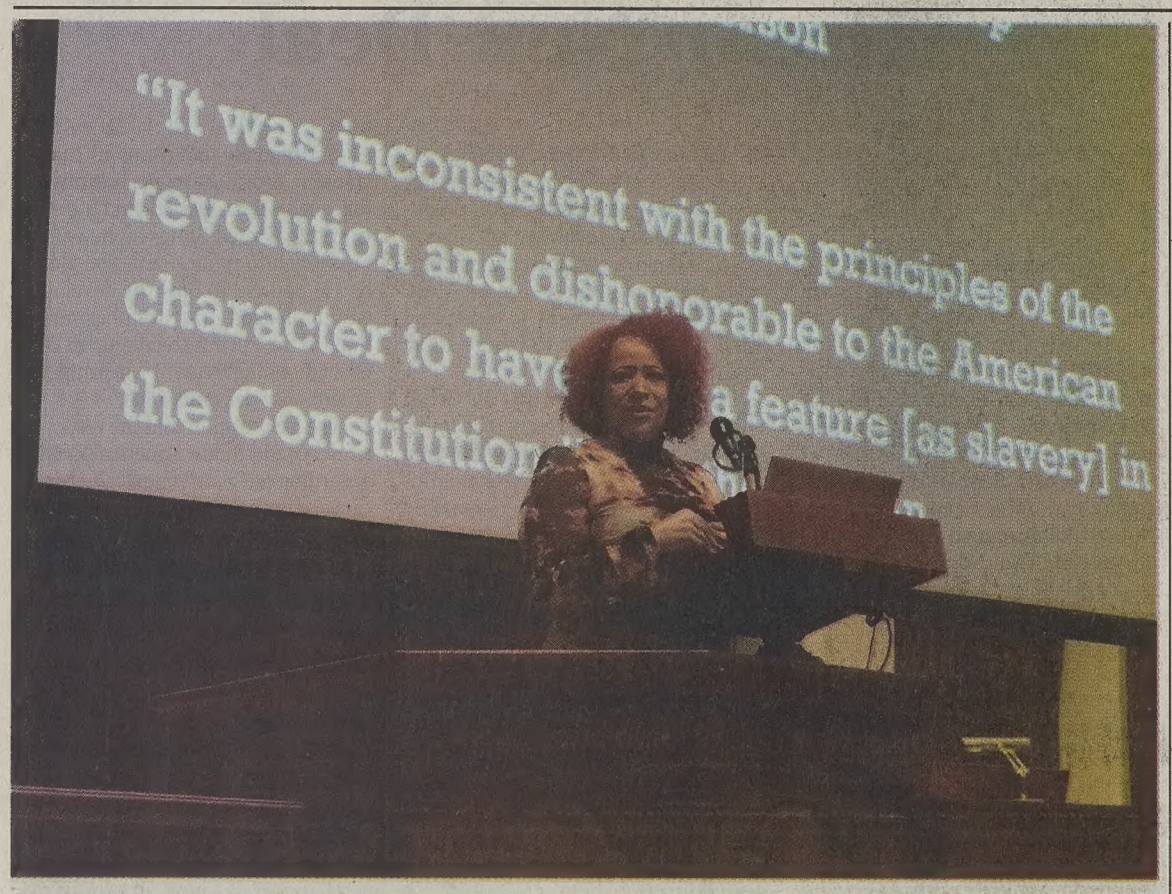
"It was inconsistent with the principles of the
revolution and dishonorable to the American
character to have
a feature [as slavery] in
the Constitution

EMMANUEL TAMRAT/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

"We are never taught about the unparalleled role that Black people have played in perfecting our democracy and expanding the common good and actually believing in the ideals of the revolutionary period," Hannah-Jones said during her Tuesday night talk.

'You can no longer say that you don't know': Hannah-Jones talks 1619 Project in Mead Chapel

By SOPHIA MCDERMOTT-HUGHES
Staff Writer

Nikole Hannah-Jones, award-winning investigative journalist and the founder of the New York Times Magazine 1619 Project, spoke to over 700 people in Mead Chapel on Tuesday night. In her talk, "1619 and the Legacy that Built a Nation," she revealed the holes and hypocracies in the popular narrative of American history and the country's indelible legacy of slavery.

The New York Times Magazine launched the 1619 project in August 2019, the 400-year anniversary of the beginning of slavery in America. The project, initially developed as a magazine issue and podcast hosted by Hannah-Jones, "aims to reframe the country's history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of Black Americans at the very center of our national narrative," according to the New York Times.

Hannah-Jones's talk, featured as part of the Critical Conversations lecture series about race, was sponsored by the Black Studies Program, Middlebury College Activities Board (MCAB) and the Office of the President.

During the talk, Hannah-Jones challenged the conventional view of the U.S. as a uniquely remarkable country founded on the principles of liberty and equality, highlighting the irony of Thomas Jefferson writing in the Declaration of Independence that "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal" while his enslaved brother-in-law served him in his temporary Philadelphia residence. She noted that 10 out of the first 12 presidents were slave owners.

Hannah-Jones traced how the U.S. was built on the "backs of Black bondage," with slave trade money fueling the prosperity of Wall Street and providing labor for the creation of many academic instiutions. Enslaved people built much of Washington D.C. and constructed the infrastructure that fueled the industrial revolution. Yet much of the basic infrastructure in modern America, such as the highway systems in many major cities, were

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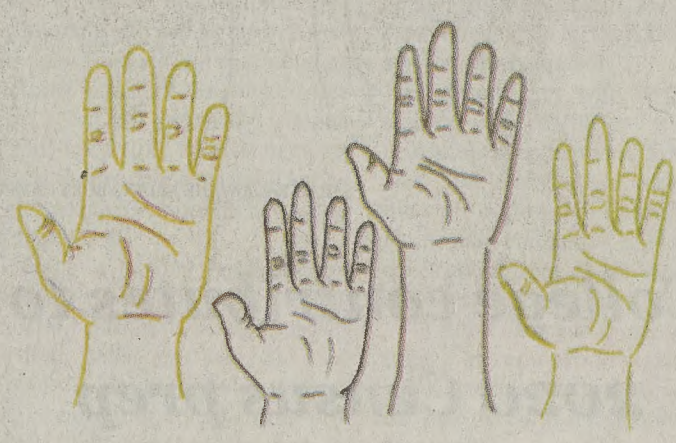
2020 Census: What you need to know



SARAH FAGAN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Turn to Page 2 to read about how Middlebury is preparing to count its population for the upcoming census.

MAX PADILLA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Students crowded Coltrane Lounge on Saurday night to listen to Melt the Band. Middlebury's own band, The Big Sip, was the night's opening act.

Twilight Project to investigate obscured histories of marginalization at Middlebury

By SOPHIA MCDERMOTT-HUGHES
Staff Writer

History Professor and Black Studies Program Director William Hart announced the creation of the Twilight Project, a collaborative research initiative that will delve into Middlebury's fraught history of inclusion and marginalization, during opening statements to Nikole Hannah-Jones' talk on Tuesday evening.

The project follows the lead of several universities — including Princeton, Harvard and Columbia — that have launched initiatives exploring the connections of their institutions to the transatlantic slave trade. But the Twilight Project will extend beyond race to include issues related to gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion and ethnicity, among others. The project will also focus on the town of Middlebury, not just the college, in its investigations.

"We are asking Middlebury students, faculty, and staff to peer at some uncomfortable moments in Middlebury's past so that we can better heal and move forward in the future," Hart told The Campus.

Hart and other organizers expect to begin hearing research proposals for the project in late March, with the hope that projects will be completed in the 2020–21 academic year. Proposals can take the form of traditional research projects or other formats such as films, podcasts, walking tours, plays and public art. Hart assumes that research will lean heavily on archived resources from the Middlebury Library Special Collections and the Henry Sheldon Museum.

The project is named after Alexander Twilight, who became the first African American to receive a degree from a four-year American college after he graduated from Middlebury in 1823.

"We chose Twilight for that kind of ambiguity and this metaphor between the darkness and the light," Hart said. "We are using this metaphor to shine a light on past moments that have been partially obscured by the receding light of history."

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Departments unite in new Center for the Humanities

By ELSA KORPI
Arts & Academics Editor

Founded in the long shadow of the 2008 economic crisis and the anxieties surrounding employment which ensued, humanities programs across the country continue to seek ways to fight declining enrollments. The college's new Center for the Humanities, housed in the Axinn Center, focuses on promoting cohesion, collaboration and scholarship between departments and other New England institutions. While the Center involves no new physical facilities, its leadership promises new approaches to teaching and cross-campus projects that will connect the myriad of humanities departments already at the college.

The Center is the product of a decade of conversations. According to Marion Wells, the Center's co-director and a professor of English and American Literatures, the process began in 2010 when James Davis, a professor of Religion, called together a group of humanities faculty. Their informal meetings eventually produced the Humanities Steering Committee in 2011.

The creation of the Center was motivated by the recognition that the humanities had taken "a back-

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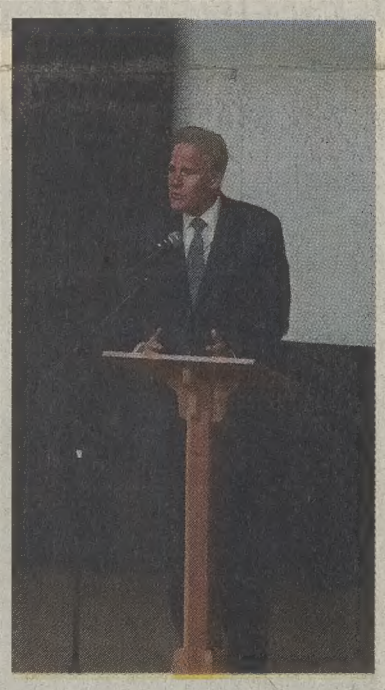

EMMANUEL TAMRAT/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Left: Former Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Michael Oren addressed Dana Auditorium about the American-Israeli alliance. **Right**: Marisa Edmondson '20 was among student protesters. A piece of tape over her mouth reads "Free Palestine."

Talk by former Israeli ambassador met with protest

By RACHEL LU
SGA Correspondent

Michael Oren, former Israeli ambassador to the United States, spoke about the multifaceted alliance between the United States and Israel on Monday in Dana Auditorium. The talk, entitled "Ultimate Allies: America & Israel, 1620 to the present," was hosted by the Alexander Hamilton Forum. Student protesters confronted Oren with prepared questions following his lecture.

Oren outlined four pillars that defined what he called the "deepest and most multifaceted alliance" between Israel and the U.S. The first pillar is the countries' spiritual connection, which is reflected in America's religiosity and empathy towards Israel.

"America was and remains the most religiously observant country in the industrialized world," Oren said. "More people in this country go to a church, and those people read the same Bible, and they see the same promises that God made to the Jewish people. They make conclusions about them and it has a profound impact."

The second pillar, he said, is the democratic connection. He emphasized Israel's founding as a Jewish state with democratic values in

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Midd's C.V. Starr school in Ferrara, Italy canceled amid coronavirus concerns

Middlebury C.V. Starr Schools Abroad continue to react to the global spread of coronavirus. With over 300 cases confirmed in Italy, Middlebury's host university in Ferrara, Italy has decided to postpone the start of the semester. As a result, the one Middlebury student currently studying in Ferrara has been asked to relocate to Florence or Rome, according to an announcement from Rosa Cuda, director of the School in Italy.

Additionally, students studying abroad in France received an email notifying them that if they have recently traveled to the Italian regions of Lombardy and Veneto, they must "remain at home for 14 days," according to School in France Director David Paoli.

This is a developing story by Editor at Large Benjy Renton and will be updated online.

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Investigation of East Midd market robberies ongoing
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OPINIONS

MiddVote wants YOU to vote this election season
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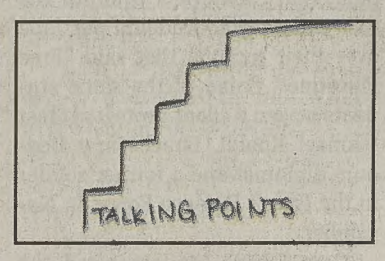

Moving beyond political talking points
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Spencer Prize celebrates the power of story-telling
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Men's swimming & diving battles at NESCACs
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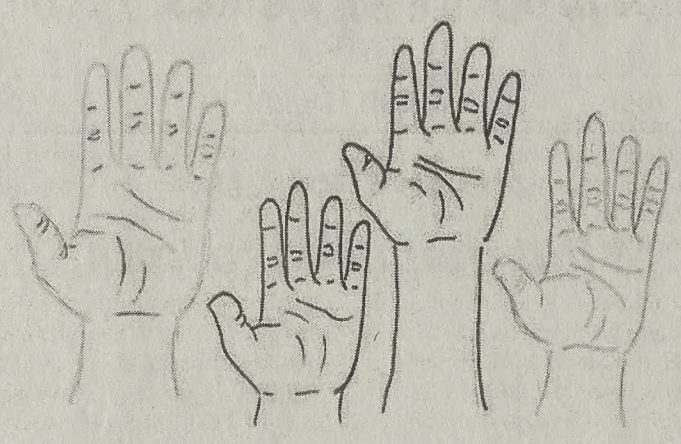


SARAH FAGAN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

College contributes to 2020 Census prep

By TONY SJODIN
Community Council Correspondent

The U.S. Census Bureau will conduct the 2020 Census in the coming months, a decennial count of every person currently residing in the United States. Households throughout the country will receive mail from the federal government beginning March 12 containing information on how to complete the census.

Residents are recorded in the census according to where they live as of April 1, the day of the census, meaning Middlebury students who are on campus this spring count as Vermont residents and should not be included on their families' census questionnaires. Students can expect an email in the coming weeks with instructions on how to do the census.

The census will be offered online this year for the first time ever. Previously, it was only conducted via questionnaires sent to households and mailed back to the government. Census enumerators would make follow-up visits to residences that did not submit filled-out questionnaires.

The Census Bureau approached the town last spring about forming a Complete Count Committee. According to Chris English, the assistant town manager of Middlebury and chair of the Middlebury/Addison Complete Count Committee, the role of a Complete Count Committee is " to conduct public outreach — especially to vulnerable communities that often don't self-respond to the census — regarding the importance of the census and what getting an accurate count of the population means to Vermonters."

According to English, people experiencing homelessness or lacking a permanent address, households with non-traditional or extended family structures, migrant workers, and people living in remote areas are typically considered "hard-to-count" communities and are the focus of the town's committee.

Ashley Laux, program director for the Center for Community Engagement, and Kady Shea, assistant director of residential life for housing operations, serve on the Complete Count Committee as representatives from Middlebury College.

Students living off-campus are the focus of the college's census outreach, according to Laux, because they will be receiving questionnaires directly mailed to their addresses and are responsible for completing the forms as households. Census enumerators will visit students who do not fill out the census form but choose to do the census in person. Middlebury students who are currently studying abroad will not be counted in the census.

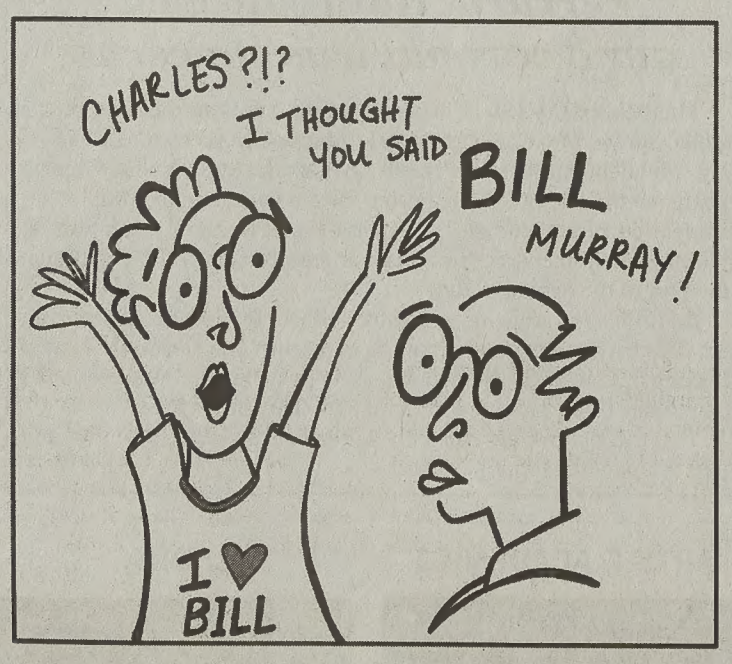
Counting students within the college will differ from the general census process. Many students will be counted as part of group quarters enumeration, a classification that also includes hospitals, nursing homes, correctional facilities and other communal living spaces. In the college, residential life staff serve as the administrative contacts for the Census Bureau and will complete this part of the process for students.

Census data is necessary for the state and federal government to allocate funding to communities and track population changes which affect representation in Congress. Middlebury students are counted in Vermont because they are often beneficiaries of federally funded services such as transportation and health care.

"I think for me, building understanding and participation in a process that only happens once every ten years is the biggest challenge," Laux said. "This is one of the largest peacetime mobilizations that the U.S. government does, so we're not wanting to barrage students and faculty and staff with information. But we do want people to be informed about the process that has real-world impacts on funding and resources allocated to Vermont."

Sociology Professor Matt Lawrence a class on the census over J-Term. The class covered the history of the census, its impact, recent controversies and the use of census data for research.

"I think the census is super important — Its stated purpose is to count every citizen, every person in the country and then use that to not only reapportion the House of Representatives, but also to give services and money to where it's needed," said Cooper Kelley '22, who took the J-Term class.



PIA CONTRERAS

Scholars debate need for a Green New Deal

By RAIN JI
Arts & Academics Editor

The Green New Deal, a legislative proposal seen by many as a radical answer to the question of climate change, went up for debate in Dana Auditorium last Thursday. The Alexander Hamilton Forum and the Political Science Department co-sponsored the debate.

Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst Robert Pollin argued in favor of the Green New Deal, while Oren Cass, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, argued against it. Christopher Klyza, Middlebury's Stafford professor of public policy, political science and environmental studies, moderated the debate, which came during an election year when Democratic voters are more worried about climate change than ever before.

"We thought the topic was especially timely, as the Green New Deal is an issue in the Democratic primary and is likely to be an issue in the general election," said Associate Political Science professor Keegan Callanan, who serves as director of the Alexander Hamilton Forum.

The Green New Deal, sponsored by Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), mandates a transition to clean energy in order to reduce greenhouse gas emission, offers a program to support those who are impacted and creates a variety of job and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Pollin first spoke to defend the Green New Deal on the grounds of its absolute necessity, and centered his definition of the Green New Deal around a zero-emissions deadline for the year 2050.

"If you believe in mainstream climate science, we are looking at a world that could be calamitous over the next couple of decades," he said. "My version of the Green New Deal is to get to net zero emissions in a way that also creates more opportunities, raises living standards [and] expands job opportunities."

He then proposed a multi-step course of action to achieve his vision of a Green New Deal globally. He suggested that governments begin by placing massive investments into energy sufficiency, including into operations of buildings, industrial machineries, transportation and more. Next, he advised investment in solar and wind power in order to reduce fossil fuel infrastructure down to zero.

He expressed belief that his Green New Deal, although costly upfront, is economically responsible in the long run. According to his research, investing in building the green economy generates about three times more jobs per million dollars than investing in the fossil fuel economy.

"Let's understand that investment in energy efficiency, by definition, saves money," Pollin said. "Yes, there are costs, but over time, those costs will get covered by the savings that are engendered by delivering this new energy system."

Cass spoke second, voicing his objection to the Green New Deal on three fronts: feasibility, high-cost and poor outcomes.

"With the existing technologies we have, there are tremendous disputes over whether wind and solar [power] have any capability to actually solve the problem," he said. "To the extent we put all of our eggs in the wind and solar basket, we are actually distracting ourselves from the kind of innovation we are actually going to need."

He offered the example of Germany, where despite the government's 30-year long project, the country failed to meet its goal of decarbonizing its economy. While the state of Vermont is politically progressive, it has not developed any wind projects for five years and has seen a rise in emissions in comparison with past decades.

Cass also emphasized the high price tag of the Green New Deal, then criticized Pollin's claim that the Green New Deal generates jobs.

"The jobs that it [the deal] would destroy are particularly good ones: fossil fuel economy jobs are among the best for blue collar workers that we have," Cass said. "[They are] the highest paying and they in turn support our manufacturing sector."

Additionally, countries in the developing world have no incentive to join such a deal, he said, and the effort from the United States alone will not be enough to reduce emission globally. He pointed to how the developing world pledged "no useful contribution" in the Paris Agreement, an United Nations agreement on mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.

The assumption that the rest of the world would follow America's lead is, according to Cass, "an extremely condescending and colonial point of view, as it suggests that the leaders of other countries do not know what is good for themselves."

He proposed to invest in innovation to find an alternative energy source that is both cheaper than fossil fuel and reliable, so that people will have incentive to adapt.

"I believe that some version of a Green New Deal — or a project to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions and stabilize the climate — will be implemented soon, for the simple reason that we truly have no alternative," he said. "Mr. Cass is not reading the overwhelming body of evidence accurately."

Students cited myriad reasons for attending the debate. Evelyn Lane '23 chose to attend because writer and climate activist Naomi Klein's Feb. 13 talk deepened her interest in the topic of climate change.

Elizabeth Kroger '22.5, a conservation biology major, feels that she is often surrounded by people who hold the same opinion as she does, so she attended the lecture to learn about any potential downfalls of the plan.

"I am curious as to what opponents of the Green New Deal would propose in place of it," Kroger said. "Cass did not speak of any specific policies or programs to replace the deal."

Other students, concerned with the Alexander Hamilton Forum's funding, held another climate-focused event at the same time. Organizers wrote about that event, "What Does it Mean to be a Student at Middlebury in the Age of Climate Catastrophe?: A Koch-Free Conversation," in an op-ed published in The Campus on Feb. 13.

Former ambassador talks US-Israeli alliance; protestors respond

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common with America's, describing a multi-partied Israeli political system with less polarization and more female government representation than in the United States.

He also admitted that Israel has a volatile and unpredictable government that shares some of the same problems that plague all democratic states.

The third pillar he described is the strategic alliance between the two nations. Today, the U.S. and Israel share some of the most sophisticated military intelligence, joint maneuvers and cyber cooperation in the world.

The final pillar is Israeli technology. Israel houses 550 high-tech corporations, including branches of American companies.

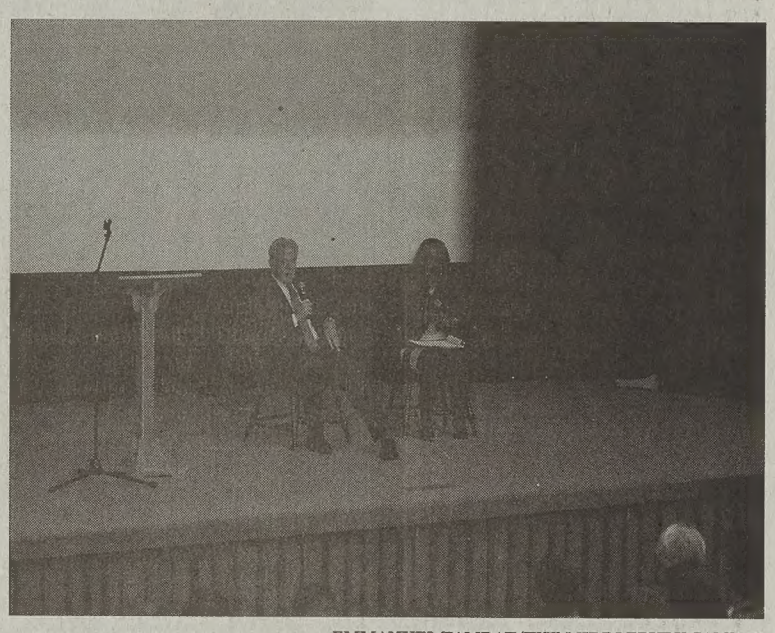
"To say that this relationship is free from tensions and disagreement would be very misleading," Oren said. "It is a profound disagreement, a philosophical and tactical disagreement." He listed disagreements such as the final disposition of the West Bank, the status of Jerusalem and the criticisms of excessive forces used in treating the Gaza Strip.

He said another source of tension is that young people from the two nations differ in their political trajectories.

"Generally speaking, Israel as a society has become egregiously more observant every week, it is more conservative, it is younger," Oren said. "Whereas the United States is going a different way."

Tension was evident during the question and answer portion of the event, when student protestors confronted Oren with prepared questions. Protesters handed out supplementary materials prior to the talk and several students put tape over their mouths that said "Free Palestine." Some of the same students staged a silent protest against Ishmael Khaldi, Israel's first Bedouin diplomat and a former soldier in the Israeli Defense Force, in November.

Cara Levine '20 organized the protest, which she said was prompted by remarks Oren had made on Twitter and in news reports articles on Palestine.



EMMANUEL TAMRAT/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Former Israeli Ambassador Michael Oren spoke about the 'deep and multifaceted' alliance between the United States and Israel.

"I chose to protest the Michael Oren event not because I wanted to silence him, but to point to the way in which him and people like him silence others, especially Palestinians but also Jews who don't agree with him," Levine said. "This [Israeli-American] alliance and these shared values should not make us feel proud or safe but, rather disgusted and angry."

One of the student protesters, Marisa Edmondson '20, said that the group's mission is to shed light on the plight of Palestinian people. Edmondson found Oren's talk to be one-sided, neglecting Israel's humanitarian abuses against Palestinians. She hoped that her protest would combat this narrative.

"We wanted to engage in that uncomfortable dialogue, but unfortunately we felt like he did not actually answer a lot of the questions that we asked," Edmondson said. "I hope that people in the room were able to sense that there is more to the story than what he is telling about Palestinian human rights. We wanted to bring that to the center stage."

In response to the group's questions, Oren highlighted the parts of Israeli life that extend beyond political conflict and urged students to visit Jerusalem.

One student in the audience expressed discomfort towards Israeli militarization, and questioned Oren on Israeli patriotism under these circumstances.

"I'd rather protect my family than to make you feel better," Oren responded. "We focus on the rockets because that's in the news, but Israeli life is so much more vibrant than that."

Middlebury professor Zohar Gazit, an Israel Institute Teaching Fellow currently teaching a class on contemporary Israel, attended the event. Gazit said he found the talk informative to his class, but disagreed with Oren on the Palestine issue. Gazit was surprised by Oren's emphasis on the religious connection between America and Israel.

"One thing I try to convey to my students, and what I did not like in the lecture, was the dichotomy he presented between the Israeli and Palestinian identities," Gazit said. "The way I see it, you're not either pro-Israel or pro-Palestine. The solution is to disengage from this dichotomy. You can claim your Israeli identity and still want Palestinians to be free, have claim to their land, and have basic human rights."

Overall, Gazit said the talk was academic and respectful.

"What I really liked was that people were asking tough questions and receiving answers. I don't know if they liked the answers, but from what I experienced, it was a good atmosphere, and it wasn't hostile," Gazit said.

College creates student-led mental health educational program to build support

By ABIGAIL CHANG
SGA Correspondent

The Office of Health and Wellness Education will introduce Mental Health Peer Educators (MHPE) next fall. This initiative aims to further discussion, support and guidance surrounding mental health at Middlebury. The office, which added several new positions this school year, has been working on the MHPE program since last summer.

"There has been a steep increase in requests for counseling appointments and interest across campus in discussing mental health," Madeline Hope, assistant director of health and wellness education, said in an email to The Campus.

The new program will rely heavily on student members who will be responsible for attending weekly group meetings and conducting peer listening hours, among other activities.

Peer listening hours, which will allow students to seek support from peer educators during 30-minute sessions, are still under development, but Hope specified that they will not be the same as counseling. The office has not yet finalized the role of confidentiality, according to Hope.

"We are still working out the details of peer listening hour confidentiality, but before the group goes live in Fall 2020, these details will be shared with our community," Hope said. "It is my hope that we can offer a safe and private space for students to be heard."

Becca Gorman '20, the former student government association health and wellness director, said she believes the program will be useful to students who have not yet been able to see a professional or are unsure if they should, and could serve as a resource for those who cannot access certain mental health resources for financial or insurance reasons.

Gorman is currently one of the presidents of Active Minds, a club that promotes increased discussion about mental health. Last year, Gorman participated in a focus group about mental health resources on campus. She said that some of the group's participants proposed the idea for peer mental health advocates.

Hope believes that peer education makes information more accessible and ensures that the programs remain conscious of student needs.

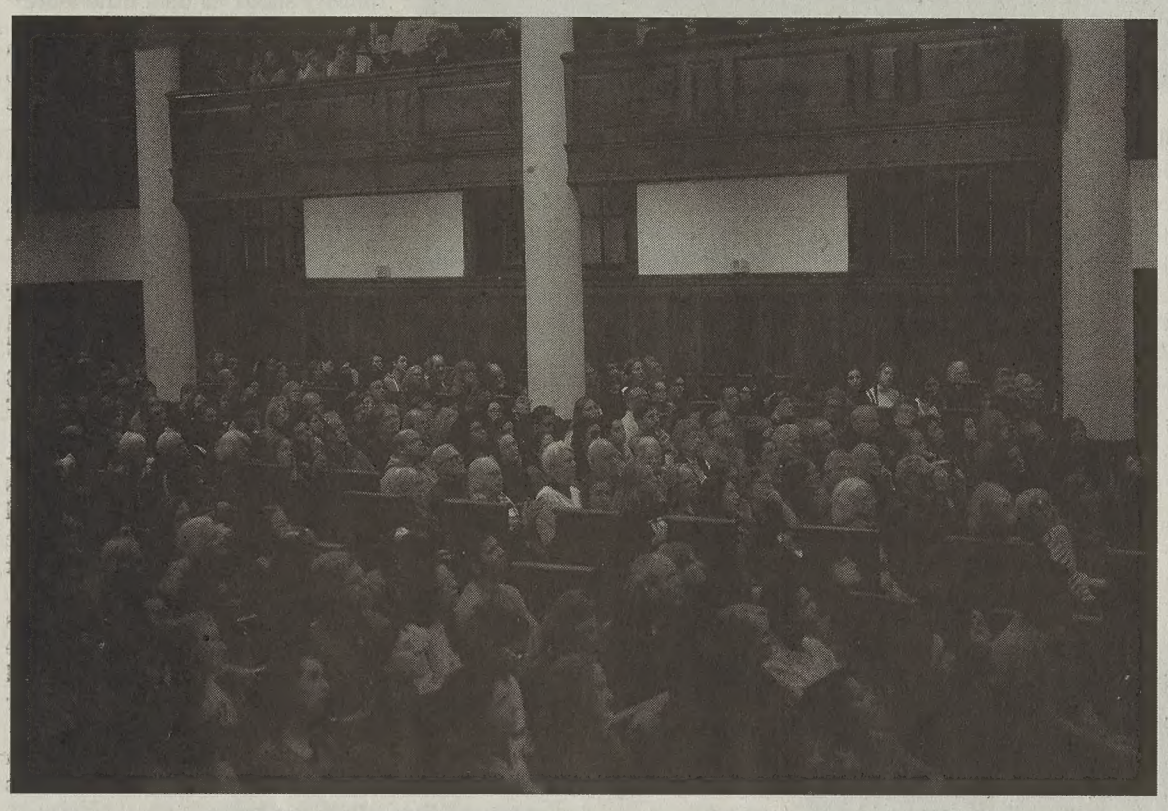
Students interested in becoming mental health peer educators must fill out an online application by March 2 and will be interviewed. Selected students will then undergo training in the fall. Online information about the program estimates a four-hour time commitment per week, though Hope says she anticipates peer educators will have some lighter weeks.

Hope is looking for applicants who are passionate about tackling mental health issues and are ready to both listen and lead. She also noted the importance of representing a variety of voices in the program, encouraging queer students and students of color to apply.

The MHPE program will join existing student-led education programs including Sex Positive Education for College Students (SPECS) and MiddSafe, which are completely student-run, and Green Dot, which is run by the school with student involvenment.

Although they will have some overlap with MHPE as programs providing peer support, MiddSafe advocates and student residential life staff cannot join the initiative. Hope cited conflicting fall training times and the potential for burnout and compassion fatigue.

"I think our community is longing for more ways to speak openly about mental health and MHPEs can be a part of meeting that need," Hope said.



EMMANUEL TAMRAT/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Mead Chapel, which has seating for 750 people, had standing room only for Hannah-Jones' talk titled "1619 and the Legacy that Built a Nation."

Nikole Hannah-Jones, award winning investigative journalist, speaks to packed Mead

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built to contain and oppress African Americans.

Despite being the targets of oppression and hypocrisy throughout U.S. history, African Americans have constantly toiled to improve the nation. Hannah-Jones described the Black civil rights movement as a catalyst for change and equality across a variety of marginalized groups, pushing the country to live up to the ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence.

"Out of the Black resistance struggle is every other resistance struggle and freedom struggle and rights struggle in this country. They all owe their inheritance to their Black rights struggle," Hannah-Jones said. She cited the use of the 14th amendment's equal protection clause, which emerged from the abolition movement, in the Supreme Court case that legalized same-sex marriage in 2015.

Critics have called Hannah-Jones unpatriotic, chiding her criticism of the legitimacy of the founding fathers' ideals. In her talk, she responded by saying that the project is "only unpatriotic to those who believe that Black people are not Americans," because Black people have always fought for and upheld those ideals, even as their rights were deliberately withheld by the U.S. government.

"We are never taught about the unparalleled role that Black people have played in perfecting our democracy and expanding the common good and actually believing in the ideals of the revolutionary period," she said.

Hannah-Jones lamented the absence of these narratives in her own childhood, acknowledging the power in celebrating African Americans as "the real founders of this country." Since the 1619 project launched, it has expanded into an upcoming book and a history curriculum that has been widely adopted by schools across the country.

"When I think about the project, I hope that we will create a generation of Black children who are freed from that shame that so many of us were raised in and who feel they have a right to claim their own country," she said.

Beyond empowering African Americans, Hannah-Jones hopes that the project will lead Americans of all races to reflect on the legacies of slavery in America.

"You don't have to personally have family that owned enslaved people to have profited and benefited from a system of slavery," she said. "[After this talk] you can no longer say that you don't know that. From here on forward it's a choice about whether you continue to benefit from it or if you work to deconstruct it and work to create the country of our ideals."

College opens conversation on tobacco-free campus

By ROSE EVANS
Contributing Writer

A semester after Vermont's new Tobacco 21 policy went into effect, the conversation regarding tobacco at Middlebury now centers around a possible transition to a tobacco-free campus.

The Tobacco 21 policy, active as of Sep. 1 of last year, raised the legal age of sale for tobacco products to 21 throughout Vermont. In compliance with this policy, Middlebury banned the possession and use of tobacco and tobacco-related products such as e-cigarettes for students under 21. Likewise, the sale and distribution of tobacco is prohibited on campus.

The implementation of Tobacco 21 has sparked a new focus on the role of tobacco in the Health and Wellness Education Office and across campus.

This week, Kevin Kareckas, the alcohol and other drug education specialist, addressed the Middlebury Community Council about his office's initiatives to provide better support to members of the campus community who have negative relationships to tobacco.

Currently, students can set up one-on-one consultations with the Wellness Education office at go/talktobacco. The college also connects students with the State of Vermont's online and over the phone program 802Quits. It also offers its own group-based cessation counseling program known as Freshstart.

Kareckas discussed how a grant the Health and Wellness Education Office applied for would provide the campus with more resources to support community members. He asked members of the Community Council for feedback on what different kinds of support should be prioritized.

The Community Council meeting also marked the first step in opening up a dialogue about the possibility of moving towards a tobacco-free campus. Middlebury is not currently a tobacco-free or smoke-free campus for students 21 and older, although restrictions exist. With the implementation of Tobacco 21, Kareckas has started to explore what a tobacco-free campus might look like.

"Becoming a tobacco-free campus is a significant process and impacts some people significantly more than others," Kareckas said, referring to the complex considerations of going tobacco-free and acknowledging how faculty, staff, and students, as well as members of Middlebury summer schools, might be affected differently by tobacco policies.

Kareckas is also looking to expand this dialogue to the student body this week in the form of a go-link survey that will gauge students' perspectives on tobacco use and policies on campus, as well as support and resources.

The go-link will be active until Wednesday, March 4 and can be accessed at go/tobaccoatmidd.

Other considerations raised by the council included the disparity between smoking and vaping use on campus, as well as whether the implementation of a tobacco-free campus would be feasible. The council, as well as Kareckas, agreed that the current focus is on support, and that any move towards a tobacco-free campus would be a long and deliberate process that would accommodate the different needs of community members.

"The direction of future tobacco initiatives on campus needs to be a community decision with multiple stakeholders at the table," Kareckas said.

Project sheds light on uncomfortable past

Continued from Page 1

President Laurie Patton approached Hart, Rebeka Irwin and Miguel Fernández with the idea for the Twilight Project a few years ago, and the idea began to formally materialize in 2018. Irwin is the Director and Curator of Special Collections, and Fernández is the college's Chief Diversity Officer.

Irwin and Hart will serve as the project's co-directors. They received financial support for the project from an anonymous donor, according to Hart.

"History can only be told by what was left behind and what was saved. All of those are in many ways deliberate choices," Irwin said, noting how very little information remained about African American alumni. "All history has silences and absences, and this archive is the same. I think that creative projects might be best positioned to help answer the questions that are left behind and help fill those silences."

The project is set to culminate in a conference in 2023, the bicentennial of Twilight's graduation, which will feature the work done for the Twilight Project up until that point. Irwin hopes that the conference will not mark the end, but rather a jumping-off point for further iterations of the project.

"The more stories that we expose, the better off we may all be as a campus together," Irwin said. "Many of the struggles we are experiencing now in the United States have been experienced on this campus before."

Hart has done his own research on histories of racial tension at the Henry Sheldon Museum in town. He chronicled Frederick Douglas's April 1843 visit to Middlebury, the first stop on a 100-city convention to spread the message of abolition throughout the Northeast. Douglas described his reception at the college as "intensely bitter and violent" and said that few people "professed any sympathy in opinion and feeling" with the abolitionist speakers. College students actively opposed his visit, hanging posters calling Douglas "an escaped convict from the state prison," according to Hart's essay "I Am a Man: Martin Henry Freeman (Middlebury College 1849) and the Problems of Race, Manhood, and Colonization."

Irwin is also eager for students, faculty and staff to uncover the stories of the many LGBTQ+ individuals who inhabited Middlebury and feared coming out during their time here.

"The Twilight Project stands as an invitation to members of the Middlebury College to examine stories from our past — some hard, others gracious — that will enable us to create new stories that will sustain Middlebury College as a fully inclusive, all-embracing institution for generations to come" said Hart, who is set to retire at the end of this academic year.

Interdisciplinary panel continues climate conversation started by Klein

By CECELIA SCHEUER
Senior Writer

Exploring the role of education in a time of global uncertainty, an interdisciplinary panel and Q&A served as a follow-up to writer and climate activist Naomi Klein's Feb.13 talk. Moderators Hannah Laga Abraham '23 and Ivonne Serna '23 asked five faculty members from across the disciplines — Carolyn Finney, scholar in residence in environmental affairs; Jamie McCallum, professor of sociology; James Sanchez, professor of writing & rhetoric; Kirsten Coe, professor of biology; and Tara Affolter, professor of education studies — to discuss their fields' relevance in the midst of the climate crisis.

The event aimed to create an ongoing dialogue on environmental issues. The overarching question guiding the conversation was, "Why are we here?"

"Being at an institution that is deeply enmeshed in the systems perpetuating this crisis doesn't give us an excuse to avoid these conversations," Serna said. "It makes it our responsibility to have them."

Dan Suarez, professor of environmental studies, opened the panel by asking what exactly it would mean to reform institutional pedagogy in light of the increasing severity and scope of compounding environmental changes.

Affolter and Finney both discussed the importance of intersectionality in engaging with issues of climate change.

"We first need to look at whose voices matter, who's in the room to ask the questions, and who's not here and why," Affolter said. "Part of the importance of our place here is to decenter ourselves and learn to care beyond what we know and understand."

Finney urged her colleagues and the audience to consider the history of marginalized groups — many of whom are now disproportionately affected by climate change — in environmental discourse.

"I keep hearing the term, 'state of emergency,' but there are people who have been living in a state of emergency for the past 400 or 500 years," she said.

McCallum emphasized the importance of including the sociological lens in climate change analyses. "There is a social crisis that has to do with alienation, isolation, division, and loneliness that is influencing the climate crisis," he said.

Sanchez spoke about the impact of rhetoric in environmental discourse.

"There's a difference between being convinced and being persuaded," he said. "I could be convinced that climate change is real, but that doesn't mean I'm going to actually get out and do anything."

Finney said that persuasion will only come by making climate change personal to everyone. She said that means finding emotional links with others who may not agree.

"If someone told me they were skeptical about climate change," she said, "I wouldn't ask them why — I would ask them what they value and what they prioritize," she said. "Skepticism from climate change arises because people have fears about something else in their lives."

During the Q&A, the panelists responded to questions about how to move from white guilt to white accountability.

"I see moving from guilt to accountability as a personal question, but also one that can be reflected in our pedagogy," Coe said. "I think it has to do with investigating and understanding the origins of our privilege and being interested in those questions."

Investigations into last month's Mac's Market robberies continue

By KARI HENKEN and LUCY TOWNEND
Online Editor and Local Editor

KARI HENKEN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Last month, Mac's Market in East Middlebury, on the corner of Route 116 and Route 125, was robbed twice.

Investigations are ongoing as police look for suspects in an armed robbery in East Middlebury. The initial incident occurred on the night of Jan. 6, when a man wearing green and dark-colored clothing, carrying a handgun, entered Mac's Convenience Store a few minutes before 9 p.m. The suspect fired a round into the floor before confronting the clerk and taking an unknown amount of cash from the register. Upon leaving the establishment, the suspect fired an additional round at the ceiling, then fled on foot.

On Thursday, Jan. 9, the police were again called to the store to investigate another burglary, in which a suspect forced open a window and a door. The police are withholding what was stolen in this second incident.

For a town that experienced only five instances of violent crime in 2018, the robbery comes as a surprise. "Nothing like that happens out here ... This is usually a pretty quiet village," said East Middlebury resident Linda Kelton. "It felt like we've been invaded – and we still don't know if it's someone from town [who is] and living among us, which is pretty unsettling."

According to the Middlebury Police Department, no-one has expressed to the department feeling particularly unsafe or expressed heightened concern.

Mac's was previously robbed in 2008 by Addison County Resident Anthony Carosella. According to a Middlebury police report, Carosella, 23, entered the store on Sept. 16 and demanded cash from the clerk while displaying a firearm. He fled the scene with an undetermined amount of cash. That fall of 2008, Carosella was involved in a conspiracy to distribute heroin and crack cocaine in Vermont that was led by individuals from Bronx, N.Y. During this time, Carosella also held up several pharmacies in Addison and Chittenden counties to steal pharmaceuticals. In 2011, Carosella pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 120 months in prison. He also has to pay $98,460.62 in restitution to businesses affected by these crimes.

In light of January's robberies, Kelton, the East Middlebury resident, said that she has stepped up security measures at home — she makes it a point to lock doors and turn on her home alarm system every night — and has been more cautious with her belongings following the robbery.

"[The fact that it was an] armed robbery shook us up a little more than if it wasn't [an armed robbery]," she said. "It made us realize [that] some people are just so desperate that they feel the need to do these things."

The investigations are still ongoing, and anyone with information about either incident is asked to contact the Middlebury Police Department.

No country for powder hounds: warmer temps threaten Vermont's ski industry

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
In Vermont, the average high winter temperature has been rising by a sixth of a degree Farhenheit per decade, according to NOAA data. Local skiers have noticed warmer days on the slopes in the last few years.

By FLORENCE WU
Contributing Writer

It's a fact no ski resort, snow maker, liftie or snow hobbyist wants to hear: the temperature profile of Green Mountain winters is changing. Vermont has seen a decrease in average annual snow coverage since 1960, with the average high winter temperature rising at 0.64°F per decade, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The change has caused milder winters, earlier springs and more severe weather events, threatening the very foundation of Vermont's ski industry.

Year by year, the total days of one or more inches of snow coverage has been on the decline, according the State of Vermont's website. Beyond charts and statistics, veteran skiers and snowboarders in Vermont have witnessed this change in action.

"Anecdotally, winters have seen later snows [in] March and April," said Mike Hussey, the general manager of the Snow Bowl. Hussey mentioned that winter weather events have been shorter and more extreme, with short cold periods accompanied by abrupt, intense warm periods.

"The rain events have been more severe in the last three or four years," said Stever Barlett, head coach of the Middlebury College alpine ski team since 2006. "As a result, skier visits tend to decrease when it's 'brown in town,' as they say."

Even younger generations have noticed the trend. While acknowledging the inevitability of winter-by-winter variation, students conclude that winters are getting warmer. In the past, blisteringly cold days were not uncommon, according to Pate Campbell '20, a senior on the alpine ski team who has spent nine seasons on Vermont's slopes.

"To have 10 of those −30°F days in a year used to be normal," Campbell said. "Now you might just have one or two."

Jenny Moss '20.5, who has skied in Vermont since she was four and now works as a snowboard instructor at the Snow Bowl, has observed similar trends.

"The most consistent thing has just been how wildly inconsistent things are," Moss said. "We are getting record colds and record [highs]; you really can't rely on mother nature anymore."

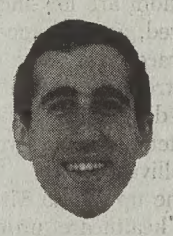
Unfortunately, according to Campbell, climate change will "hurt the small [ski] mountains the most." While larger resorts such as those in Vail and Aspen can sustain rising costs by increasing ticket prices on its huge consumer pool (as those in favor of conglomerates have said), small mountains with a fraction of the capital have less leeway to do so.

The Bowl and Rikert Nordic Center have increased their snowmaking facilities, without which warmer weather could shorten the average 135-day season down to 50–70 days, according to Hussey. Despite changing weather patterns, Hussey remains optimistic about the College's snowmaking abilities. "Shorter windows of opportunity have driven us to install equipment that can be started and shut down quickly in order to capitalize on as much of the window as possible," he said.

However, snowmaking is only a temporary solution to the threat that warmer winter temperatures impose on the ski industry. Those looking to protect Vermont's slopes can take action by joining and supporting environmental activist groups such as Protect Our Winters (POW). The organization believes that through a "three-way change" in politics, technology and culture, voters can prevent the worst impacts of climate change. As a college student, this can mean participating in climate activism, voting for green politicians, researching renewable energy resources, supporting environmentally friendly brands and companies, and being more aware of personal consumer habits and carbon footprints.

"The students are the generation that can change the habits of our culture," Hussey said. "It is late in the game but not too late."

Ben and Benjy's Local Lowdown



By BENJAMIN GLASS & BENJY RENTON
Senior Local Editor & Editor at Large

FEB 28–29

Middlebury Carnival Races

The Middlebury College Alpine and Nordic Ski Teams start racing at 9 a.m and 10 a.m., respectively. Get out to Rikert and the Snow Bowl and support the Panthers!

MAR 2

Middlebury Floor Meeting

The first night of the Middlebury Town Meeting includes a session to voice opinions on a range of town topics.

MAR 3

The Australian Ballot

Following the Floor Meeting, Town residents can vote on funding allocation, maitenence projects in town and elect local representatives. Polls are open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

MAR 3

Super Tuesday

If you are registered to vote in Vermont, today is your day! Go get out to the polls and fulfill your duty as thy model American citizen!

MAR 7

Couchsleepers come to Midd

Join this folk-indie band (all Middlebury grads!) as they travel on tour across New England this spring. Alpacka (band) opens for them at 8:30 p.m. in the Gamut Room.

SMALL TOWN, BIG NEWS.
WRITE FOR THE LOCAL SECTION.
INQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO bglass@middlebury.edu

Planned Parenthood of Northern N.E. continues to subsidize health care after federal cuts

By BECCA AMEN
Staff Writer

After the Trump administration enacted updates last August to Title X funding stipulations in a move to severely limit access to abortion care, Vermont refused to yield. The Vt. Department of Health Services and the Planned Parenthood of Northern New England (PPNNE) made the choice to forgo federal money, instead continuing to providing abortion services to Vermonters through state funding. The choice was made possible by Vt. Health Commissioner Mark Levine, who announced that state contingency funds would be allocated to cover the $759,000 difference. This decision came before PPNNE even announced that it as withdrawing from Title X funding.

Title X, which has been in place since 1970, has subsidized birth control and other forms of affordable reproductive healthcare on a federal level. However, these new regulations prevent the allocation of federal funding to organizations that provide or refer patients for abortion services except in certain circumstances, including medical emergency and rape.

Before these changes went into effect, PPNNE was the only provider in Vermont to receive Title X funding for family planning and reproductive health services. Title X money has never directly funded abortion services in Vermont; rather, it has helped patients, many of whom are low-income and uninsured, access cancer screenings, contraceptives and STD testing and treatments. This funding has helped approximately 11,000 Vermonters in the past year, according to Sullivan.

The update to Title X requires that healthcare providers receiving funding from Title X withhold information on abortion services from patients. Eileen Sullivan, communications director at PPNNE, indicated that this is in "clear violation" of medical ethics and standards of care.

"PPNNE's healthcare providers are not going to conceal any information from our patients in exchange for federal funding, and we particularly refuse to let the Trump administration bully us into withholding information about safe, legal abortion," Sullivan said.

Ruhamah Weil '21, who worked at Middlebury Planned Parenthood as an intern last summer, recalled when the Trump administration began to restrict allocation of Title X grants.

"Middlebury's clinic doesn't even perform abortions due to staff, funding and space constraints, and it had lost money from the government for providing all sorts of other medical procedures," Weil said. "This type of policy helps create and embolden the stigma around abortions. It sends a message that says that if the conversation between you and your doctor even includes the word abortion, it's not a medical conversation."

Weil also said she alerted patients to losses in federal funding by putting up signs around the clinic. These signs explained that federal funding would not pay for new patients' healthcare, while making clear that financial assistance would still be provided to those who would have originally benefited from federal aid. Weil found it important that the Middlebury clinic did not give in to Title X's new stipulations, but expressed concern that reproductive services may be now limited in other regions.

"[These changes] pile on so much more fear, hatred, and misunderstanding to the idea of abortions. It brushes the issue into a corner and tries to hide from it," Weil said. "Instead, we proudly stood by Planned Parenthood's commitment to providing safe and legal abortions for those who wish to receive them, but we also proudly stood by our patients in Middlebury who weren't there to receive abortions."

Feminist Action at Middlebury (FAM) Co-President Annie Blalock '20 indicated that FAM has engaged with the Title X cuts by supporting Vermont Proposition 5, an amendment to the State Constitution that is currently being deliberated in the Vermont Legislature. This amendment, if ratified, would guarantee that reproductive liberty is an unalienable right for Vermonters, regardless of restrictions on the federal level.

"[It is] empowering for the politically conscious and for those just existing in this country to actively fight against what the gag rule represents in this country," Blalock said.

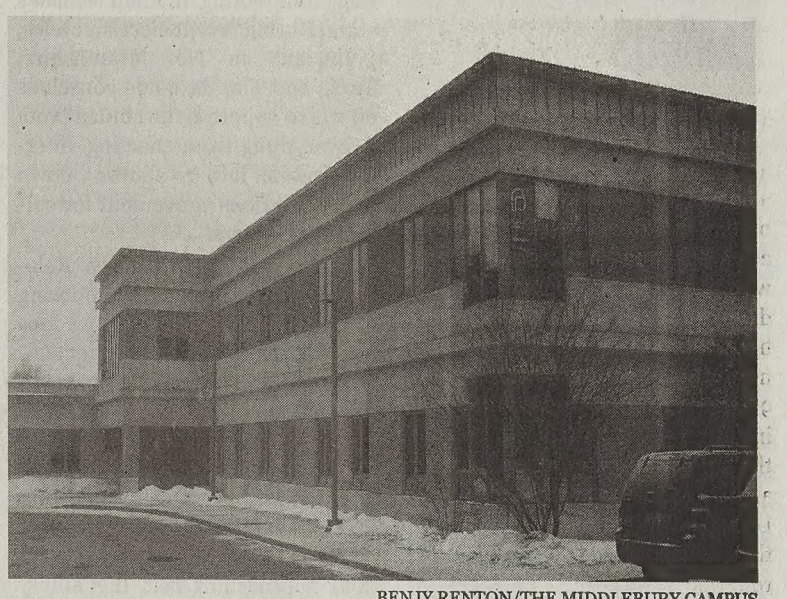
She recalled a time when FAM brought Middlebury students to the Vermont House of Representatives the day the bill was introduced, and remembered that it was astonishing to see pro-life activists alongside Planned Parenthood advocates. "That speaks to the gravity of a constitutional amendment," she said. "We'd be the first state in the country to do something like that."

Lucy Leriche, PPNNE's Vice President of Public Policy for Vermont, will host a workshop at Middlebury on March 11 that will train students on effective communication around reproductive justice.

"We're incredibly grateful to the Vermont Legislature and Governor Scott for reserving state funds to ensure services like affordable birth control, STD testing and treatment, and cancer screenings can continue for the 11,000 Vermonters who need this care," Sullivan said.

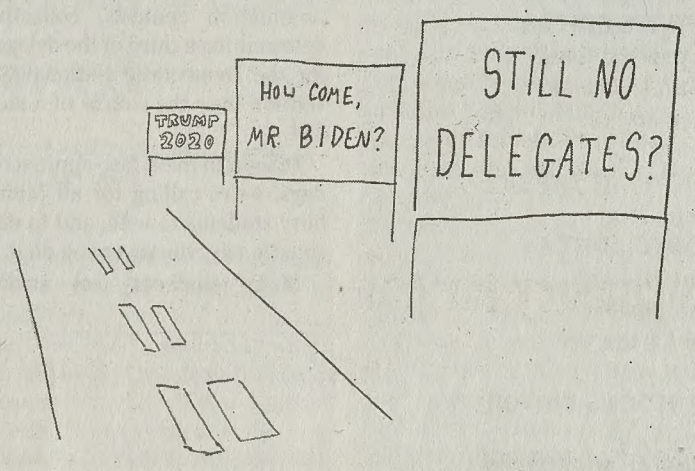
Sullivan also indicated that Planned Parenthood will remain committed to protecting its patients' reproductive rights regardless of current political opposition.

"Our patients, everyone,regardless of zip code, income, insurance, race, or identity, deserves expert health care and accurate reproductive health information," she said. "Our doors are open, and we're here to provide you care — no matter what."



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Last August, Planned Parenthood of North New England withdrew from federal funding agreements due to Title X rule changes. Although the Middlebury office does not perform abortions, it lost funding as a member of the PPNNE network.



"3 Billboards outside Charleston, South Carolina"

JENNY MOSS

Activists flood Burlington City Hall to halt future ICE collaboration

By SOPHIA MCDERMOTT-HUGHES
Staff Writer

BURLINGTON — Over 130 activists, including 20 Middlebury students, rallied in support of a proposed resolution to end collaboration between Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Burlington City Police Department at the Burlington City Council Meeting on Feb. 18.

The resolution aims to close four loopholes within Burlington's Fair and Impartial Policing policy (FIPP). The current policy allows Burlington police officers to ask about a person's immigration status if they are suspected to have recently crossed the border, and to report the immigration status of victims and witnesses of crimes to deportation agents. The policy also grants deportation agents access to individuals in police custody, and permits police to share confidential information with immigration agents if they deem it a matter of "public safety."

"It's really important that [the resolution] passes because Burlington sets precedent for a lot of other towns that are considering this," said Leif Taranta '20.5, a member of Juntos and Sunday Evening Environmental Group, both of which organized student involvement in the protest. "What happens here is going to set the stage for the rest of Vermont."

So far, Winooski — the town adjacent to Burlington — is the only town in Vermont to have closed the loopholes.

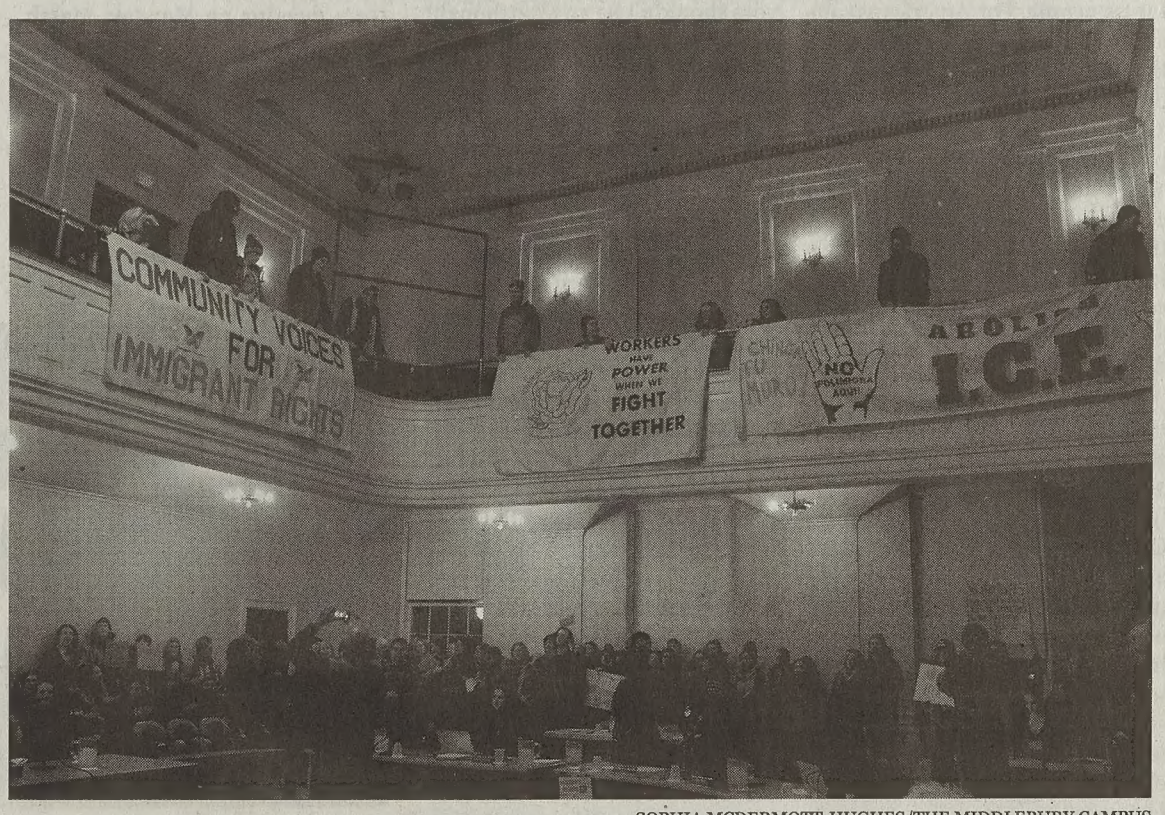
The city council was initially set to vote on the resolution on Jan. 27. After postponing the vote to Feb. 18, they struck it from the agenda shortly before the start of the meeting in favor of what they deemed more time-sensitive matters.

"The City Hall can't just table important things like this just to suit their own preferences and think that that won't be met with backlash from the community," said Lynn Travnikova '20.5.

No Más Polimigra — whose name combines the Spanish words for police ("policía") and immigration agents ("migras") — hosted the rally in collaboration with several other community groups, including Migrant Justice, Community Voices for Immigrant Rights, 350 Vermont and the Vermont ACLU. The rally began outside of City Hall with several activists speaking about the importance of the resolution and expressing their collective rage at its continual deferral.

SOPHIA MCDERMOTT-HUGHES/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Over 130 activists packed into Burlington City Hall last week to show support for a resolution to end collaboration between the Burlington Police Department and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).



SOPHIA MCDERMOTT-HUGHES/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

"This is a fight for our community, this is a fight for dignity, this a fight for the right to live in our community without fear," said Betsy McGavish, an organizer with No Más Polimigra. "We are here to remind the councilors that they do not have to uphold a white supremicist police immigration state any longer."

Protesters then marched inside, ringing the perimeter of the hall in a dense thicket of bodies, posters, and banners. Several Middlebury students, trained in de-escalation practices by Taranta before the rally, positioned themselves at evenly-spaced intervals along the wall, their bright orange vests highlighting them against the crowd. The room filled with the sound of 130 people chanting "Vermont will fight for immigrant rights"' for over 30 minutes as the council members filed in, took their seats and faced the protesters.

During the public comment, several migrant dairy workers and undocumented immigrants spoke, recalling their experiences with Burlington police and immigration agents. Hugo Rojas described being detained by ICE after a routine traffic stop, calling the incident "one of the most bitter and difficult experiences of [his] life."

According to No Más Polimigra, the FIPP loopholes violate immigrants' rights to fair and equal treatment under the law, undermine public safety by scaring immigrant communities away from reporting crimes or working with the police, and divert resources away from community policing towards immigration enforcement.

"In these times of increased disparity of justice and wealth there is oppression coming down from the federal level, and we need to stand up on the state and local level and set an example for the rest of the country," said Vermont State Representative Brian Cina.

"I call on the city of Burlington to take this action with the community here watching because we will be watching. We'll be coming out of the shadows to raise our voices and make ourselves heard," said Enrique Balcazar, a Migrant Justice leader and migrant dairy farm worker.

Throughout the course of public comment, tensions escalated between protesters and City Council President Kurt Wright. Wright repeatedly ordered the crowd to "be respectful" and not cheer for those speaking. Though the council limited public comment to one hour, several activists continued speaking even after the time had elapsed. One woman accused the council of upholding white supremacy through Wright's conduct.

The City Council is set to vote on the proposed resolution on March 9. No Más Polimigra plans to hold another rally at that meeting. The protesters signaled their intent as they filed out of City Hall chanting, "We'll be back on March 9th."

"We are going to make our voices heard," said Travnikova, "and we are going to keep coming."

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**Senior Editor*

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THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

When voting in Vermont, don't half-ass it

Not all college students have an easy time voting in their school's state. During recent election cycles, politicians in New Hampshire, Texas and Florida made conscious efforts to suppress the student vote — everything from enacting voter-suppression laws to shutting down polling stations convenient for college-aged voters.

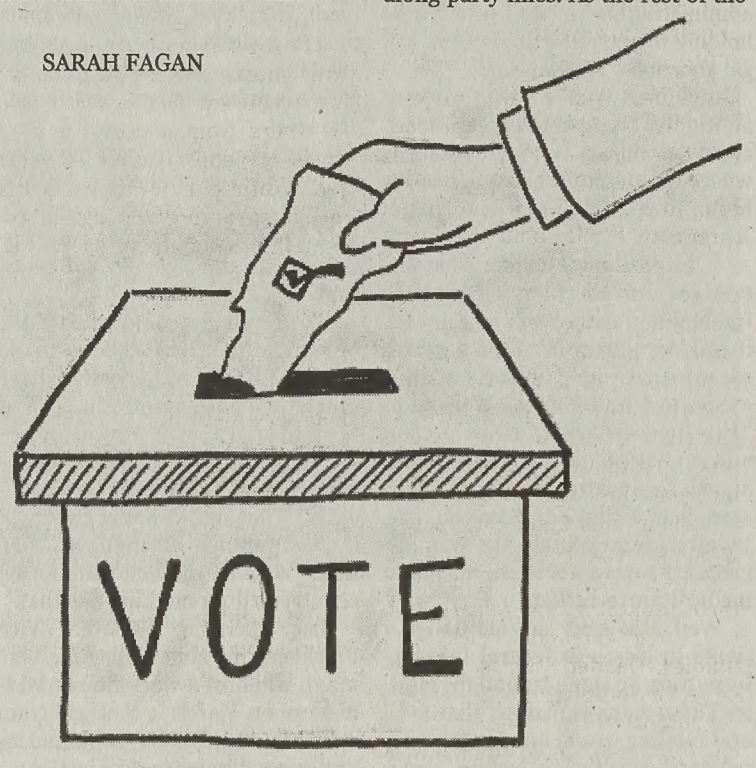
In Vermont, we're lucky. Relatively speaking, students choosing to participate in local politics face few roadblocks to civic engagement. Town halls and elections are readily accessible. In fact, Vermont's same-day online registration allows any Middlebury student with a U.S. passport and proof of residence to cast a ballot with virtually no prior planning. With the March 3 elections approaching fast, this ability assumes immediate importance.

Next week, we have two important political days in rapid succession: March 2 and 3. On March 2, communities come together on Vermont Town Meeting Day to elect local officials, approve an annual budget and discuss town issues. March 3 marks Super Tuesday, when 14 states and one territory hold their nomination contests, collectively determining a third of the delegates for the Democratic National Convention over the course of a single day.

In light of these fast-approaching days, we're calling for all Middlebury students to vote, and to do so consciously, wherever you do it.

Many students feel strongly about sending absentee ballots back home. Students from swing states, for instance, might feel their votes matter more there. Others cast their votes in attempts to either oust or maintain current leadership. And many may simply choose to vote in the state they grew up in, and continue to consider "home."

SARAH FAGAN



And yet there are compelling reasons to vote in the Green Mountain State too, beyond logistical voting accessibility. The state's scale — with only 600,000 residents — and long tradition of split-ticket voting make Vermont idyllic to begin one's political engagement. Vermont's size places emphasis on local politics and town hall meetings that have open doors to students.

Politically, it is well known that residents of Vermont tend to "vote their conscience" as opposed to along party lines. As the rest of the country has become increasingly polarized, Vermont has managed to maintain common ground between parties, as voters regularly swing from Democrat to Republican depending on any given candidates' platform. The lack of political divide allows students to think critically about the issues as opposed to being swept in the tide of blue or red.

Still, voting in Vermont shouldn't be taken lightly, and votes on Vermont-related issues should be cast with intentional research and consideration. While ballot questions about flood-resilience measures or funding for the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity might not directly impact the lives of students on Middlebury's campus, they represent vital issues for the surrounding community.

Anyone who can vote should vote, regardless of location. For many Middlebury students, that entails mailing a pre-requested absentee ballot back to their home state. For others, that means taking advantage of same-day registration in Vermont, and showing up to the Middlebury Recreation Center between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on March 3. In either case, however, we ask that students to engage purposefully with the issues behind their ballot.

If you are voting in Middlebury next week, check out our guide below.

editorial

The editorial represents the opinion of the Middlebury Campus editorial board.

Middlebury voting guide

Presidential primary in Middlebury

Polls for the presidential primary will be open in Middlebury on March 3, 2020, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center, 154 Creek Road, Middlebury, Vt..

What is the presidential primary?

The presidential primary is a series of state-by-state inter-party elections to nominate a presidential candidate from each party to appear on the ballot in November. Although President Trump is virtually uncontested in the Republican primary, Vermont has three Electoral College delegates to offer the top-voted Democratic candidate in a winner-take-all contest.

How do I vote in Vermont?

Polls for the presidential primary will be open in Middlebury on March 3, 2020, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center, 154 Creek Road, Middlebury VT 05753. All those registered to vote in Middlebury can show up at any time during this period. No ID is required – your name will be on a list at the polling place. Expect to line up, state your name and possibly address, and cast a ballot.

What if I'm not registered to vote, or am unsure of my status?

You can check whether or not you're registered to vote in a certain state on vote.org. If you're registered elsewhere, you may need an absentee ballot, which can be requested on a state-by-state basis. Unfortunately, it may be too late to request one in the mail from your home state. Luckily, if you're still determined to vote in the primary, Vermont has same-day online registration available to all residents including students.

Who can I vote for?

Whether you're registered to vote in Vermont or another state, the primary ballot will look relatively the same. Vermont is an open-primary state, which means you don't have to declare a party affiliation beforehand and can choose to vote in the Democratic or Republican primary at will. If you choose to vote in the Democratic primary, you can choose from the eight remaining viable candidates or a write-in, including Vermont's own Senator Bernie Sanders.

Town meeting in Middlebury: Australian Ballot

Polls for the Middlebury "Australian ballot" will be open in Middlebury on March 3, 2020, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center, 154 Creek Road, Middlebury, Vt.

What is the "Australian ballot"?

The Australian ballot is a part of Middlebury's annual Town Meeting Day, though there's no meeting involved. Unlike the "floor meeting," the ballot is a paper yes-or-no vote and will take place alongside the presidential primary vote at the Middlebury Recreation Center on Super Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

Who can participate in the Australian ballot?

Any voter registered in Middlebury is eligible to cast a vote. Residents are not required to have attended the Town Meeting Day "floor meeting" to vote in the Australian ballot.

What will be on the ballot?

The town of Middlebury released a "warning" for the six issues that will be presented on the ballot. They are as follows:

- Should an amount of up to $2,500,000 be issued to finance construction of water system transmission and distribution improvements surrounding the Court Square area?
- Should an amount of up to $2,000,000 be issued to finance refurbishment of flood resiliency measures?
- Should an amount of up to $850,000 be issued to rehabilitate the former wastewater treatment facility and related surrounding amenities?
- Should an amount of $5,000 be issued to the Turning Point Center of Addison County to assist them in aiding Vermonters in recovery from substance abuse and addiction?
- Should an amount of $5,000 be issued to the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO) to assist them in aiding town residents in need of support regarding housing, fuel and food?
- Should nominees for town official positions be elected as required by the Middlebury Town Charter?

voting guide

***Hattie LeFavour '21** is a local editor for The Campus.*

Let's not sit this one out

It is a widely-held belief that the measure of a democracy is its ability to ensure free and fair elections for its people. For Americans, our ability to continue to deliver on this promise relies on our participation in the electoral process. As a country, we've struggled; in the past five presidential election cycles, voter participation across the country has consistently been in the mid-50s. Part of MiddVote's job the last few years has been to reflect on our own progress. As a college community, how have we done?

In the past two general midterm elections, our participation rate has seen sporadic change. In 2014, we fared notoriously poorly, with only 15% of Middlebury College students (including MIIS enrollees) voting. 2018 showed marked turnaround for a midterm election cycle, with 51% of all eligible students voting — a 36% increase in turnout. How can we sustain this momentum in elections to come, even in primary elections with seemingly less importance?

For one, we can create a culture of voting. Repeatedly, studies have demonstrated that individuals are more likely to vote when their peers talk about the news and encourage voting. If communities are the springboards for getting people to vote, then it's hard to imagine a place that could offer more lift to civic engagement than a college campus. As a college, we should normalize the very act of voting. Registering to vote shouldn't be an afterthought; it should appear on syllabi. Requesting an absentee ballot shouldn't be a chore; it should be easy and accessible, understandable and encouraged.

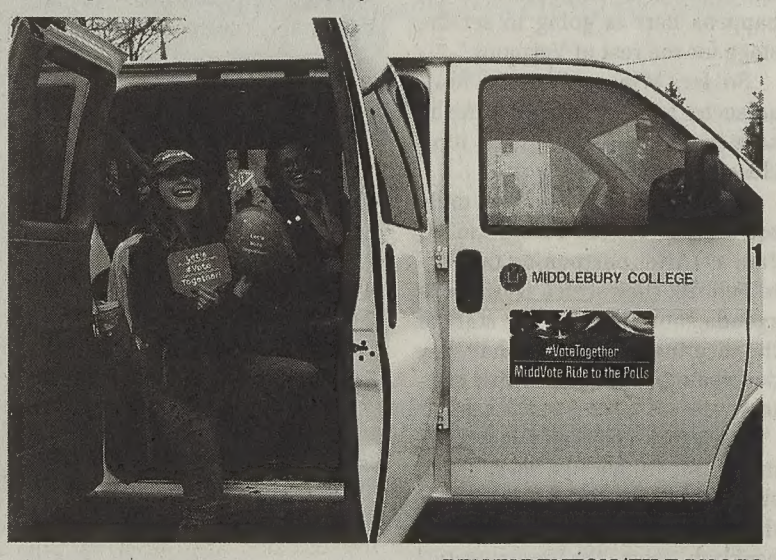
We are inviting our peers to think about how they will be civically minded this semester. For many of us, our first opportunity to vote this year comes on Tuesday, March 3. Any Middlebury student can be considered a resident of Vermont and is eligible to vote between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. at the Middlebury Recreation Center, at 154 Creek Rd. Vermont state law allows any individual to register on election day, at the polls, should they not be registered beforehand.

Those unable to make it to the polls on election day may request absentee ballots in-person at the Middlebury Town Clerk's office up until Friday, February 28 at 4:00pm.

For students who may wish to vote in their home states, MiddVote has sent out state-specific, detailed memoranda on how to register and request an absentee ballot, with specific attention to states' varying deadlines. We hope this dispels confusion surrounding the process, which differs widely across all 50 states and territories.

We can do even more than voting, too. Middlebury holds its town meeting on Monday, March 2at 7:00 p.m. Town Meeting is a historic, unique annual opportunity for Vermonters to commune and consider issues of local governance. Residents can heartily discuss the issues at hand before voting the following day. Town Meeting reinforces the centrality of the role communities play in self-governance. MiddVote is also sponsoring Trivia Night on Thursday, March 5 to engage our college community in newfound, exciting civic education programming.

We hope that Middlebury students won't lose sight of the important role we play in our democracy: engaged citizens. For some, voting isn't an option; for others, it's an infrequent and cumbersome choice. As a community, we can do everything we can to engage everybody in our democratic processes. Let's not sit this election out.



BENJY RENTON/FILE PHOTO

op-ed

***Zeke Hodkin** is a member of the class of 2021 and the President of MiddVote.*

A call to strike on March 31: A letter to faculty from students

How you can help foster supportive communities in anticipation of Charles Murray's visit

Dear Faculty,

On March 31, students, faculty and staff across campus will be striking in an effort to resist the white supremacy and pseudoscience that denies marginalized members of our community their dignity at Middlebury College. We are striking because everyone deserves to live and learn on a campus that does not invite speakers who invoke violence and hatred, or utilize "science" as a weapon of oppression in the service of racism, sexism, transphobia and classism.

We believe Charles Murray embodies larger structures of white supremacy that occupy Middlebury and all institutions of higher education. We refuse to allow Middlebury to continue to uphold these structures of oppression and we refuse to allow right-wing money and media to control discourse on our campus. Instead of attending our usual classes, we are planning an alternative schedule of teach-ins led by faculty. These teach-ins will be open to students, staff, and community members who wish to engage with anti-racist, anti-sexist, anti-classist, anti-xenophobic and anti-pseudoscientific material. These teach-ins will allow the members of our community to exercise agency over their own education on a day during which a racist pseudo-scholar will monopolize a powerful speech platform at our institution.

We are asking for your support and collaboration in our resistance. We urge you to join us in striking. As faculty, you contribute immense labor power to this institution. Choosing to withdraw and redirect that power on March 31 will disrupt "business as usual" and lend weight to our resistance. For those of you who choose to strike with us, we urge you to tell your students of your intent in advance and create space in your classes for discussion of this action as a mode of resistance. You can further create that space by reaching out to student organizers and offering your classroom as a teach-in location. We are immensely grateful to the faculty members who are already collaborating with us. In particular, many faculty members have contributed to a website with a tentative and developing schedule of teach-ins, along with more general information about Murray. If you are interested in getting involved, whether it be to offer support, offer your classroom space or create your own teach-in, please fill out the form on go/facultyteachin.

If you choose not to join us, please allow your students to make their own choices about whether or not they will strike and participate in the teach-ins. Recommend a talk or teach-in that you find engaging or related to your class material. Tell your students you will not take attendance that day, or offer a make-up opportunity. We ask that you please do not give exams or quizzes in class that day.

We are committed to making March 31 a day focused on learning strategies to unlearn institutional biases. We invite you to reach out to us about leading your own teach-in. You might choose to teach about the history of white supremacy, classism, racism and pseudoscience in your discipline, or lead a workshop debunking Murray's ideas as they relate to your areas of research. Too often, the labor of supporting student activism, recognizing current on-campus social issues and incorporating those issues in the classroom falls upon certain professors. These professors are often already engaged in social justice in their programs and departments (e.g. Environmental Studies, Black Studies, Gender Studies, Sociology, etc.). By relegating these conversations to the sphere of the social justice-oriented humanities, we fail to recognize the impact that Murray's bigoted pseudoscholarship has on students of all disciplines and the college community as a whole.

We urge you, professors across all disciplines, to engage now, as Charles Murray's visit will inevitably have an impact on the entire college community. We envision a day of learning that is inclusive of the diverse perspectives and fields present on campus. We hope that you will help broaden our understanding of the ways in which white supremacy and related oppressive ideologies and forces manifest.

Ultimately, we are asking you to foster communities and spaces in which all students feel dignified and supported. Please reach out to us, engage us in conversation, and share your thoughts and concerns. We ask you to take this as an opportunity to encourage participation in our collective education outside of the classroom.

Note to readers: We would like to make readers aware of a companion letter written by our peers that argues that the talk should be canceled or moved off-campus. The letter was sent to administration this week. These distinct approaches stem from similar beliefs about what values our campus should uphold.

Sincerely,
Lauren Bates '20
Claire Contreras '22.5
Luna Gizzi '21
Sidra Pierson '21

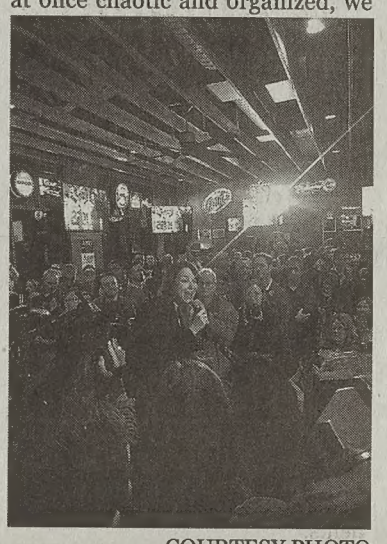
The authors of this piece are four of the over 120 student signatories who signed this letter online. For a full-list of signatories or to add your support, visit go/cmletters.

Democracy is Messy, So Are the Iowa Caucuses

On Feb. 3 at 6:00 p.m., my family and I joined some of our neighbors to walk a few blocks to our caucus location — a nearby school auditorium. In the following hour, hundreds more of our neighbors filtered in, some registering to vote for the first time, others following a routine practiced many times before.

The Iowa Caucuses are an inherently messy process and one rife with criticism. On caucus night, anywhere from a dozen to hundreds of people gather at nearly 1700 different locations across the state, varying from small town church basements to large high school gymnasiums. Then, over an hour plus process, express their vote preference by standing in a corner and literally counting heads. While coming to a head one February night, the process really begins two years prior as presidential hopefuls crisscross the state from coffee shops to cornfields visiting most, if not all, 99 counties. While this process seems absurd to anyone not from Iowa, it benefits both candidates running for president and voters. Candidates have to actually do the work of talking to voters and discussing their policy ideas, while voters are forced to think deeply about their vote and engage in conversations about who is best suited to be president. And so, while messy, it is a process that Iowans take incredibly seriously.

Caucus night begins with statements from elected officials, followed by speeches from the precinct chairs for six of the candidates, encouraging voters to stand in their corner. Then, in a manner at once chaotic and organized, we



COURTESY PHOTO

did just that — stood in a corner with a group of neighbors expressing support for our chosen candidate.

The caucus system in Iowa has what is called a "viability threshold". In order to receive delegates in a certain precinct, each candidate needs support from 15% of the caucus-goers. If a candidate fails to meet this number, there is a realignment period in which voters can either attempt to persuade voters from another unviable group to come join their corner (in order to reach the 15% threshold), join a viable candidate's group or remain uncommitted.

Following the first alignment in our precinct, Des Moines 59, the only viable candidates were Pete Buttigieg, Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders. As a result, the supporters of Amy Klobuchar, Joe Biden, and Andrew Yang (and a handful that supported other candidates) had to either convince others to come join their corner or had to move to a viable candidate.

Caucuses are one of the rare occasions, save jury deliberations, in which a body of people are asked to reach political decisions in a collective nature. These conversations between neighbors, however chaotic they might seem to the news-viewer at home, reflect the pure, democratic essence of the caucus.

At my caucus site this materialized with initial talk of Biden and

op-ed

***Abbott LaPrade** is a member of the class of 2021.*

Klobuchar supporters joining forces. However, there was limited interest in that plan and once it was clear that both candidates would not reach the 77-person threshold necessary to be viable, precinct captains from the three viable candidates came over to make personal pitches. Ultimately, most moved to support Buttigieg, giving him the narrow popular vote win in our precinct, with Sanders and Warren following close behind.

This result is representative of the final results across the state: Buttigieg narrowly won with Sanders close behind, and Warren a more distant third. Yet, as the results took longer than usual to be reported (due to a faulty reporting app and the fact that for the first time three times as much voter breakdown was reported) news coverage turned to expressing doubt at the organizing of this years caucus and, more broadly, Iowa's role as the first in the nation state.

Just like complaints about caucuses' chaotic nature, there have always been questions about whether Iowa should play such an important role in the nominating process. There are complaints about Iowa being unrepresentative of the nation and the democratic party electorate (too white, too rural), confusion about the caucus process and concerns about the ease of participation, particularly for minorities, the elderly, and those with service jobs.

Complaints about Iowa going

first are not unfair, still, they often do not show the whole picture. As far as representation goes, an NPR study in 2016 found that Iowa was the 16th most representative state in the nation—far better than the other early nominating state New Hampshire which ranked 49th or even South Carolina at 32nd. Furthermore, while Iowa is not as diverse as the nation as a whole, that has not stopped Iowans from frequently selecting diverse candidates. Iowa is widely considered to have been imperative in the rise of Barack Obama, the first African American nominee In 2016, Hillary Clinton, the first female major party nominee won the caucuses. This year, the first openly gay major-party candidate walked away with the majority of the delegates.

It is no surprise that Iowa allows diverse, unknown candidates to succeed. A longstanding political tradition of voters thoroughly vetting the candidates by meeting multiple candidates, often multiple times, and TV and radio airwaves that are vastly more affordable than most states help to level the playing field. That way, such as in 2008, a first-term senator from Illinois can gain traction and beat more high-profile figures, such as a former first lady and senator as well as the former vice presidential nominee. While there certainly are issues with the caucuses, a profound sense of democracy emerges across the state as voters collectively spend the evening talking, listening and engaging, in this uniquely Iowan tradition. Sure, the Iowa Caucuses are messy, but so is democracy.

letter to the editor

***Alyth Hescock** is an Addison County resident. She identifies as a frequent Campus reader and avid WRMC listener.*

Sad day, again, for the college. As a moderate swing voter, I will add: a sad day for the Republican recruiting effort as well. Inviting Charles Murray back to Middlebury College is almost like kids throwing rocks at a nest to demonstrate how angry the hornets are. It's pretty clear to outsiders this is a deliberate, and simple, attempt to create controversy. Why? Because the student body hasn't reacted this way to any other speaker; their discontent is clear. Rather than antagonize, bring to the stage some serious topics with the goal of solving complex problems and making the world a better place. That's the first step in swaying some would-be Republicans over to your side. Until then, don't forget the Golden Rule and "Be Nice To Each Other Out There People."

Shame and disability

I have a disability. I am disabled. And, I have shame.

I have never written out those words, much less read them aloud to myself, feeling the edges of their meanings, as I do right now. I have said that I have a learning disability, but these words feel different. I have said publicly that I was diagnosed with dyslexia and attention deficit disorder (ADD) as a young boy, and I have been able to say, "I have dyslexia and ADD." Actually, I have been able to say that when needed, and only sometimes because shame attaches to part of me when I say any of these words: dyslexia; ADD. Shame especially visits me when I call it what it is: being disabled.

Such shame builds over time.

When I was an undergraduate, a professor asked me in class if I had dyslexia. My body went rigid and I got tunnel vision. He asked in care and concern. He had no way to know; I had not told anyone. I was not mad at him. In fact, I love him to this day. In graduate school, a professor who learned of my disability told me I should go back to working construction. I came to hate that professor. But, I no longer allow him to hold power over me. Later, while applying for another round of graduate school, I stated on my application that I have dyslexia. No more cat-and-mouse. Even so, a professor, ripping apart my paper, asked if there was a situation connected to my writing. With a glint in her eye, she offered help. I had had enough "help" by that point to know that, as Anne Lamont says, "Help is the sunny side of control." I told her nothing was wrong. I did not come to hate that professor. Worse, I have no respect for her. I feared her, which was her game. I went back underground, hiding my shame and my disabilities.

These two professors were not the only ones interested in shaming the disabled. I used to be, too. As a kid in the eighties, I called others "retard." I had an older brother whom I never knew. We were not to talk about him publicly. His name was Nick. He was profoundly mentally and physically disabled, and died young. I asked myself: *Am I retarded and no one's telling me about it? Are they calling me dyslexic and ADD so I won't feel bad? How much of Nick is in me?* Questions like these led to fear and shame — the cocktail of aggression. So I, the learning-disabled kid with the ghost of a dead handicapped brother, was happy to call others "retard." Despite the sting it gave me, distancing myself from Nick felt good.

Shame wants to cover vulnerability. Shame moved me to hide my disability from myself and others by burying any sense of weakness in hard won success. So, I began learning Arabic as an undergrad, and not only have I learned it, I have learned to teach it. My Arabic is exceptional. My teaching is exceptional. I know that. I have spent most of my life working on these two things. Not just doing them, but working hard on them, and at different times in my career I have been advanced, if not high advanced, in three different dialects of Arabic, in addition to my skills in Standard Arabic. Take that dyslexia, and ADD, and retardation. I beat you! I deny you!

It is still there. It always will be. I am not it, and it is not me, but it is part of who I am in this world. It was put in me and I recognized it in me, and I let it in. I also let in the shame.

In kindergarten, I sat between the smart kids with tears streaming down my face as my teacher scolded me. I could not read. This was my first lesson in shame. I also learned that remembering what was said made reading less necessary. By college, I could read and write well enough and memorize the rest. I got good at memorization. It's fun. I still remember my lines from my kindergarten play and I finished university with honors without taking notes in class. Does that make me smart? No. I do not feel smart for that. I feel shame. You see, I do not know how to take notes. People talk quickly and then some letters reverse and I forget where I was and then the sentence gets stuck on a few letters, and maybe that person can see my writing and my spelling might be wrong and what are they thinking? Do they know? Can they tell that I am —? And then my hand is shaking and the doctors said that anxiety exacerbates what I've got, so I've got to relax and try to catch that next sentence, and where were we...?

Oh, yes! Kindergarten play lines, graduating with honors, and a sharp memory. Smarts? No. Not smarts. A survival tactic. Differently-abled? No. It's "nice," like someone saying "AWW." Disability means I lack or find marked difficulty in relation to a capacity that is possible for most. And, disability does not come with extra abilities, despite my lifelong infatuation with Daredevil, the blind comic book hero. No, I just memorized most everything because anyone can. Seriously, read Joshua Foer's "Moonwalking with Einstein." I am not special. I am handicapped. Handicapped? Yes. And despite my hesitation, why the hell not say it in this way? It is true and accurate. Retarded? No. On the spectrum? I guess I'll take it, but I am old enough that it was not part of my medical-DSM/Dyslexia/ADD-story, my story featuring shame.

My shame, despite its efficacy in compelling action, has been a tactic without strategy, a reaction and not a response to being disabled. To feel soothed, it has demanded praise and, success, and I have complied. But, it has always fallen short. No matter the accolade gained, the shame does not subside. And, I actually remain less skilled at what I am doing because I remain fearful. Fear limits. Only recently have I begun to move out of it. I have learned to embrace my shame, feel it, and grieve what I denied myself through shame and grieve what my disability has denied me. I sit alone. I cry. I listen. Then I usually laugh. I feel as if I am without shame, shameless, which presents a freedom, and freedom is a strategy, a dangerous one. Yet, it beats shame. So, what instead? I do not know, and I refuse to offer advice. I just know from my story that while shame provided quick and hot burning fuel, a simple generosity for others and the multiple selves that comprise me has provided the basic ingredients of my learning and growth, and can abide more than I thought possible.

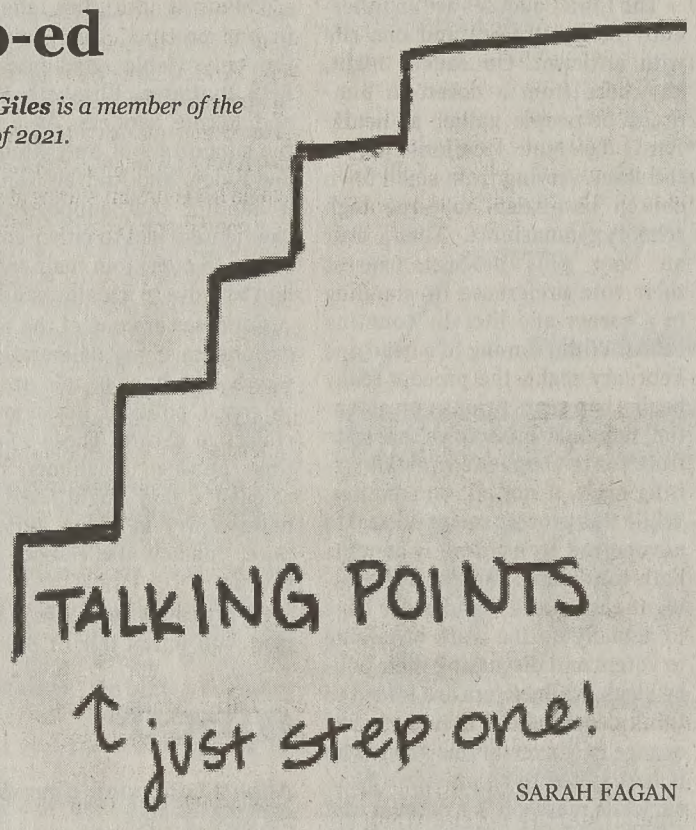
op-ed

***Robert Greeley** is a professor of Arabic, and is currently on sabbatical.*

Don't settle for political talking points

op-ed

Alex Giles is a member of the class of 2021.



SARAH FAGAN

My father is a registered Republican. There, I said it. Five years ago, this didn't bother me, but unfortunately, times have changed. As I've become more politically involved over the past few years, I've begun having conversations with my dad about the latest developments in politics. He is not politically active, but follows major headlines and national stories. Our personal values and outlooks on life are similar, but we clash sometimes, especially when he uses stereotypes or outdated talking points instead of constructing an educated opinion. Statements such as, "Democrats are just going to spend money they don't have," and "Both parties are to blame for the mess we're in," not only make my skin crawl, but are simply not true. Regurgitating partisan political talking points doesn't change minds; It's a cop-out used in place of critically processing new information. If the nation's political discourse is to improve, Americans must debunk prefabricated talking points and form their opinions based on evidence rather than political spin.

My dad is a hard-working small-business owner who always makes time for his family. Immediately after graduating from physical therapy school, he started his own physical therapy education company, while working another full-time job. Eventually, my mom joined the business and it became large enough that they both needed to work there full-time. We are a near-textbook example of the American dream –– and my father would be the first to admit it. However, despite all of his intelligence and determination, he is quick to make sweeping assumptions about political parties and candidates based on stereotypes.

One particular conversation my dad and I had about government spending quickly became heated when he dismissed my points with a sarcastic remark about Democrats' endless spending. After a quick Google search, I pointed out that Trump plans to add over $5 trillion to the debt in his first term — an approximate 25% increase from the $20 trillion debt at the end of Obama's last budget. I also highlighted that deficit spending took off under President Ronald Reagan, while Bill Clinton ran a surplus. He was skeptical of my challenge to his belief about Democrats, but he no longer uses this point during political conversations.

As the partisan divide in America continues to grow, facts and data seem to carry less weight than they used to. There was an average 15-percentage-point ideological gap between left- and right-leaning Americans in 1994, according to Pew Research Center; there is now an average 36-point difference. The increasing severity of this gap is a result of Republican leadership increasingly choosing to ignore irrefutable data. Their stance is absolute truth, and if you offer a rebuttal with credible data behind it, you are simply "fake news." Trump made 16,241 false or misleading claims during his first three years in office, according to a study from the Washington Post. As the Trump administration continues to blur the perceived line between truth and lies, it is paramount that Americans reject blind allegiance in favor of reliable data.

I've made a lot of progress with my dad over the past few years, and although I don't like to admit it, he has changed my mind on multiple occasions by sharing his perspective and personal experiences. Initially, when he made points I disagreed with, I would become irritated and begin to let myself be governed by emotion rather than reason.

On one such occasion, my dad and I were having a calm conversation about income inequality –– an issue we both believe is a huge problem in America. However, my patience was tested when he rattled off the classic "both sides are responsible for where we are today" tagline. My instinct was to laugh and ask if that was a joke. Instead, I bit my tongue, took a deep breath, and asked him why he believed that. I could tell he didn't have concrete evidence off the top of his head; rather, it was just something he accepted as fact. I calmly told him that trickle-down economics was founded under President Reagan and has been a staple of the Republican party ever since — though economic scholars have largely debunked the theory. I then calmly backed this statement up with a policy example from the Trump administration: Republicans passed a nearly $2 trillion tax cut that was deliberately designed to provide massive cuts to millionaires, billionaires, and corporations. He paused to consider my point, and the more data I provided, the more productive our conversation became.

It is human nature to try to sort people and groups into categorical boxes. "Democrats spend too much money," or "Republicans hate poor people," and so on. But we can no longer allow one-liners and talking points to dominate our political discourse. Every conversation is an opportunity to replace assumptions and bias with logic and reason. Is my father going to run to town hall tomorrow and register as a Democrat? Most certainly not. But as he continues to question the universal "truths" fed to him by political pundits, he is a more responsible and engaged citizen.

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Murray visit raises questions for concerned faculty

op-ed

Jamie McCallum is a professor of sociology and Jason Mittell is a professor of Film and Media Cultures.

The following letter was sent to President Laurie Patton and members of the Senior Leadership Group (SLG) on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020. It was posted on The Campus' site on Feb. 23.

Parts of this letter have been lightly edited to comply with The Campus' style guidelines.

An open letter to President Patton and her Senior Leadership Group:

As a group of faculty who came together in the wake of Charles Murray's last visit to Middlebury in 2017, we are truly saddened and baffled that we are facing his return to campus this spring. We believe that over the past three years, our campus has grown significantly in becoming a more inclusive, self-aware and responsive institution, that is open to frank conversations about racial and other inequities that structure our community and broader world. A lecture by an ultimately insignificant, debunked pseudo-scholar, arguing that race, class, and gender inequalities are a product of genetics rather than social systems and practices, would typically be a laughable and easy-to-ignore event. However, the presence of this *particular* insignificant, debunked pseudo-scholar reopens many wounds that we have worked hard to heal over the past three years.

We write to our administrative colleagues in Old Chapel seeking answers that we hope to receive in a public forum. The largest question that dogs us is, "How did you allow this to happen?" As stewards of Middlebury's institutional culture, mission and reputation, you certainly recognize the many ways that this is a bad idea — no matter how events might play out on March 31, the event will cause many of us significant psychological distress, provoke in-fighting, generate bad publicity, potentially endanger members of our community, waste hours of time planning and stressing, and ultimately yield nothing beyond rekindled hostility. We believe you could — and should — have taken steps to stop this event from happening on the grounds that it was not in the best interest of the institution and goes directly against our core values of integrity, inclusivity and intellectual honesty. Murray's talk seems predicated on the "pillar" of academic freedom, but also contradicts our other two pillars of integrity and respect.

Perhaps it is too late for an administrative action to save face from what will undoubtedly be another hit to our reputation. However, there are some crucial questions that remain unanswered as to how we got to this point that need to be explained:

1. Based on reporting in The Middlebury Campus, the decision to bring Murray was made by three people: College Republican co-presidents Dominic Aiello and Brendan Philbin, and the organization's advisor, James Douglas. Not only were they the initiators of the event, but it appears that they were the only three members of the organization who knew about it at all. Philbin's email to The Campus claims that the administration advised him to keep it secret from everyone else, including his fellow Republican students. Is this true? If so, what rationale was the administration following to encourage this unilateral action that placed other student members of the organization in such an unfair and uninformed position, given that many were quoted as disagreeing with the invitation? None of us who are advisors of organizations would ever encourage such secrecy and duplicity, so we are quite concerned that our administrative colleagues seem to have done so.

2. Douglas is the advisor for the College Republicans. However, our handbook policies for student organizations explicitly state that organizations are "required to have a current full-time faculty or staff member serve as the advisor." Douglas is not a full-time faculty or staff member, but rather an "Executive in Residence" who occasionally teaches. This matters because we believe that full-time faculty and staff members, even those who may be Republicans or sympathetic to Murray, would better understand how this invitation would fracture our community and generate genuine harm to the institution. Douglas's role within the college community does not afford him the deeper understanding of the impact of this decision, as he will not have to deal with the repercussions that this event might have among the student body, faculty and staff community, and broader institutional reputation. Thus we ask why the administration gave Douglas the power and responsibility to advise and encourage the two students who made this decision, rather than enforcing the rules that require the organization to have a full-time faculty or staff member for mentorship and oversight?

3. Obviously this event will require significant security and facilities staffing. According to our handbook, "Student organizations bear full responsibility for arranging and financing any Department of Public Safety services that may be necessary in connection with controversial speakers." Are the College Republicans fully funding and arranging these services, and at what cost? If so, where are they getting this significant funding, which will cost more than their allocated organizational budget? Our community deserves to know the source of this funding, especially if it is coming from outside groups investing in an event designed to divide and generate controversy on our campus. What are the other projected costs to this event that Middlebury will be funding directly, including staff hours and damage control to our reputation?

We sincerely believe that our administrative colleagues wish they were not in this situation, being forced to risk so much because of a disingenuous event devised by just three people on a diverse campus of thousands. While we wish it had never come to this point, we ask President Patton and her administrative team to answer these questions in a public forum to provide transparency and clarity on their decision-making, knowing that it will be small solace in the wake of the turbulence and pain that March 31 has already caused.

Signed,

Middlebury Faculty for an Inclusive Community

Mittell and McCallum co-authored this piece on behalf of the Middlebury Faculty for an Inclusive Community. A list of the group's members can be found on its website.

Editor's note: Jason Mittell is The Campus' faculty adviser. Any questions may be directed to campus@middlebury.edu.

Letter to the SGA

op-ed

Arthur Martins is a member of the class of 2022.5 and the Co-President of the International Students' Organization (ISO).

Hey SGA, remember us?

Not one member of the International Students' Organization (ISO) attended the Jan. 26 Student Government Association senate meeting, at which the senate deliberated on whether the ISO co-presidents should be incorporated as voting members of the senate. Why? We were not invited. In fact, I only learned about it last week, reading The Campus' rundown of that SGA meeting that took place nearly a month ago.

At first, the SGA offering representation for the largest cultural — and overall second-largest — organization on campus felt to us like a recognition of the college's international community. But we were taken aback by being neither notified, invited nor included in that conversation. The SGA missed the mark on the concerning state of international representation in student government affairs. Instead, it focused only on how including us in the senate would be unfair to other organizations.

The representation of international students in student affairs remains scarce at best. This is especially true of the SGA. Looking through the roster of the current Senate, all senators except for Eun Ho Lee '21 fall into the category of "domestic students," as defined by the National Council on Education Statistics. In turn, in the current Presidential Cabinet, only three out of the twenty-three members self-identify as international students. Although several prominent international students have risen to the occasion, making their voices heard in the Senate, the Cabinet and the Community Council, each administration so far has left legacies of unaddressed challenges and issues that international students have been facing for over a decade.

Questions of exclusion, pressures to assimilate, and a systemic lack of resources and support have remained unaddressed for years, as Campus op-eds from 2005, 2015 and this past fall show. When the SGA does step up to address the concerns of international students, it does so only in response to our own independently formed initiatives, as was the case with a petition created by two international students to approve curricular practical training (CPT) over the summer. Without adequate representation, our issues are likely to remain our issues.

Representation is a common problem among demographic minorities: how can our voices be heard when they are not represented? On Middlebury's campus, international students represent the crushing minority of a defining binary: being a domestic or an international student. Having a representative immersed and attuned to our experiences ensures our voices are always on the radar, our input deemed important, and that we feel we matter beyond flowering the college's demographic statistics.

While there are already good SGA initiatives in place to gather constituents' input, they do not pick up on the specific needs of demographics such as ours. Good representatives should not wait to have problems pointed out to them; instead, they should be at the forefront in identifying them. One important example of this active engagement is demonstrated by former SGA President Brian Elworthy '02.5 who, in 2001, developed a practice of "visiting" student organizations in an attempt to be attuned to the needs of the college community. I advocate for this kind of direct involvement and reiterate how having an international representative is only one of the many approaches to enrich the SGA with the experiences and perspectives of students who come from all over the world.

As for us, the ISO has stood resolute in its commitment to foster critical engagement with diversity and improve the experiences of international students since 1996. Our programming reflects not only our desire to share our cultures and facilitate community-building, but our recognition that it is up to organizations such as ours to improve the real experiences of Middlebury students. With this mindset, we have piloted a dedicated program to enhance the exchange student experience; with this mindset we are writing the MINT Magazine, a comprehensive Resources Guide to support current and future international students; and with this mindset we will continue to facilitate collaboration and dialogue with other student organizations.

Still, it is not our prerogative to join the senate, articulate, and implement policies that have long-lasting impacts across this institution. That is your role, our senators and SGA, and that is what necessitates continued dialogue and a direct engagement with the experiences of international students across this campus.

We can and should debate what this involvement would look like, as well as what parties would be best suited for the task. No matter what, it is essential that there be a dedicated place on the SGA for our voices. How else can we ensure that international students' voices are always invited, remembered, and actively sought out?

I look forward to the conversation.

UNCOVERING OVERLOOKED TREASURES

By EDYTH MOLDOW
Contributing Writer

In a time when Kindle is on the rise and most books are instantly accessible online, it has become a rarity for people to pick up hard-cover, good old-fashioned books. We have forgotten to appreciate the age-old craft of bookmaking in the midst of a technological frenzy, and the hidden treasures inside these books have become as dusty in our minds as the shelves they sit upon.

RAIN JI/MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

"Under the Covers: The Hidden Art of Endpapers" reminds us of these forgotten treasures by outlining the history of endpapers, sheets of paper pasted onto a book's inside covers. In the 15th century, endpapers simply served the purpose of protecting the first and last pages in books; however, as time went on, they began to be seen as works of art. From the earliest minimalistic paste papers to the increasingly common applications of marbling, printing, illustrating and modern-day photography, the exhibit shows the evolution of endpapers through the centuries, succeeding in reigniting an appreciation for what is hidden in plain sight.

"With this exhibit, we wanted to showcase books not just as neutral containers for any old text but as a material object that tells stories of the time and place that it first came into being," said Rebekah Irwin, Special Collections & Archives director and curator of the exhibit. "When I look at a book, the text — the actual words under the covers — is rarely what I look at first. Especially old books. I look at the binding, the feel of the paper, the heaviness of the book, the smell (yes, old books do have a unique smell!). I also look for illustrations, annotations and doodles, and I always look for remarkable endpapers."

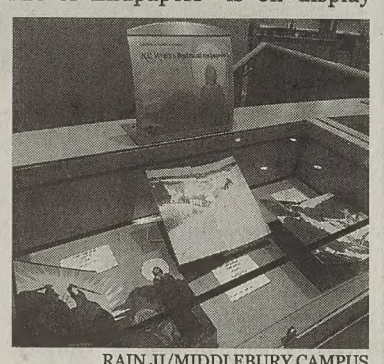
Irwin adamantly believes that the physical features of books serve as a looking glass into its history. "We might remember the story of Dr. Suess's "The Lorax," but do we remember the freaky endpapers? Or the showy and spectacular decorated papers popular in the 1700s through the 1900s?" asked Irwin. "Our hope is that our exhibit sends you back to your shelves to open up long neglected books. Not to read them of course, but to take a closer look at the book and to see it, rather than read it — especially the endpapers. I suspect we all have at least a few surprises on our bookshelves if we took the time to look under the covers for these concealed works of art."

Kaitlin Buerge '13, special collections and archives fellow, discussed her experience working on the exhibit.

"Selecting books for this exhibit was the best. In my head, I've been referring to the process as 'shopping' the stacks, because I would venture into our rare books section and try to guess which kinds of spine and covers might suggest beautiful endpapers within," Buerge said in an email to The Campus. "I started to recognize that books with more expensive-looking bindings would often have marbled endpapers, but I was often surprised by the marbling hiding inside books with much plainer, old-looking (17th and 18th century) covers."

Buerge recalled that while she was a college student, museum and library exhibitions rarely caught her attention. Yet through the eye-catching glass cases in Davis Library, she hoped students could spend some time enjoying "a glimpse of N.C. Wyeth's illustrations or the marbled endpapers." Often overlooked, Buerge sees this exhibition as an opportunity to give endpapers the overdue credit they deserve.

"Under the Covers: The Hidden Art of Endpapers" is on display



RAIN JI/MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

in the Davis Library atrium now through May 31, 2020. Whether you stop in for a quick visit on a study break or are inspired to look a bit more closely at the books lining your desk back home, the endpapers display reminds us to acknowledge the aspects of our lives that take a little more work to find and understand. If we all challenge ourselves to seek these surprises hidden on our bookshelves and in our lives, who knows? The worlds around us and the worlds written, hardbound in our palms, may just become a little more exciting.

Center for the Humanities opens in shadow of 2008 economic crisis

Continued from Page 1

-seat" at the college and its peer institutions since 2008.

The Campus wrote about the state of humanities this October in an editorial, which highlighted the fallacy of many assumptions surrounding humanities majors – including, but not limited to, their perceived low salaries and poor employability. The editorial cited data from the Center for Careers and Internships, which showed that "arts and communication formed the largest employer for the Middlebury Class of 2018, while financial services came in second."

The unemployment rates of 25–29-year-olds with Bachelor's degrees in English and STEM fields were approximately the same, at 3.4 and 3.3% respectively, a 2019 report by the National Center for Education Statistics found. Similarly, the unemployment rates of Economics and Fine Arts majors both hovered around 4%.

Faculty members felt a growing need for a more concrete vision of the humanities at the college, according to the center's co-directors Wells and Febe Armanios, professor of History. In the early stages of the process, they consulted humanities directors from Colby, Dartmouth and Yale, who provided data and inspired the creation of their collaborative co-directorship. A similar collaborative leadership model is reportedly used at Franklin and Marshall College.

Though Wells and Armanios assumed their positions in September 2019, the center has deliberately kept a low profile so as to focus on building a robust foundation.

"When we brought in these colleagues from Colby and Dartmouth and Yale, we were told, 'Take your time in this initial building period, take your time getting things set up and get them set up in the right way, make sure you have the support of faculty,'" Armanios said. "It's a consultative process."

As part of this, the center appointed two humanities student fellows, Laura Friedrich '20.5 and Molly Burnett '22. Burnett was actively involved in helping build the center's new website, which launched in early February.

One of the center's main objectives is to establish the Axinn Center as the formal location of the humanities on campus, similar to the relationship of the sciences to Bicentennial Hall, or the arts and Mahaney Center.

"When it was originally opened as a building, [Axinn] was more or less envisioned to be a place of gathering and coalescing over the humanities on campus, but it didn't end up quite formalizing as such," Armanios said. The co-directors hope that this formal locus can promote cohesion and collaboration in humanities curricula and among the faculty teaching them.

> *"One of the Center's main objectives is to establish the Axinn Center as the formal location of the humanities on campus."*

Burnett echoed Armanios' views, and added that having a central home will increase the visibility of humanities on campus.

"In a sense [the identity] isn't there," Wells said. "People would say 'I do humanistic work,' but whether they see themselves as belonging to a community of humanists on campus is a really different question up until this point."

This sentiment persists in spite of the vast network of resources the college has invested in the humanities, including the over 40 Middlebury C.V. Schools Abroad, the New England Review, the CMRS-Oxford program and the Bread Loaf School of English. "There's a lot of talk about those individual entities, but not about how they're all the humanities," Wells said.

Plans for the center include "Public Humanities courses," which would connect the college's humanities program to the Middlebury community. Public Humanities classes, which are reportedly standard practice at the college's peer institutions, would include a "Humanities lab" that encompasses subjects such as manuscript workshops and paleography, which Wells and Armanios say the college has not been able to offer before. A grant proposal for the project has already been written, according to Wells.

The planners hope this collaboration could involve other colleges. Wells says that the center has sought to connect with other humanities centers in Vermont, and have received permission to join the New England Humanities Consortium (NEHC) with institutions including Amherst, Colby, Smith, Brown and the University of Connecticut. This membership gives the center access to new grant money available within the consortium.

Without a steady increase of new students majoring in the humanities, Wells expressed concern that some humanities departments may become so-called "service departments" – departments whose courses students only enroll in to fulfill distribution requirements. This in turn would negatively affect humanities departments' ability to get new tenure-track positions.

Without the influx of young professors and new ideas, departments also risk looking dated and unattractive in the eyes of students. A vicious cycle forms.

"We need to show how absolutely central the core humanities skills and concerns are to creating responsible, ethical and vibrant lives after graduation," the co-directors said in an email to The Campus.

The center's inaugural event, writer Emily Bernard's lecture titled "Black is the Body: Writing about Race in America," will take place in Wilson Hall on Thursday, March 5. Bernard is a Professor of English at the University of Vermont and the author of several titles, including "Some of My Best Friends: Writings on Interracial Friendships."

Reel critic: "Atlantics"

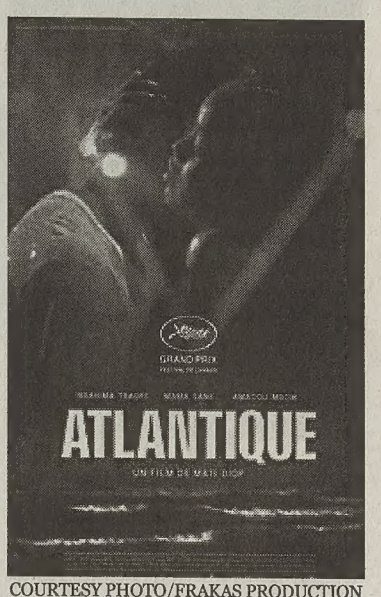
By JOHN VAALER
Senior Writer

Most of the time, it is inadvisable to throw around adjectives of the "Kafkaesque-Orwellian" ilk; these words are overused. But hear me out on this one: "Atlantics" is the most Dickinsonian — as in Emily Dickinson — movie so far in the Hirschfield International Film Series. Consider the film's opening scenes, which strongly echo the verse of that reclusive New England poet. A young woman spends a solitary night in her bedroom, staring at a flickering candle; the ocean wind brushes the curtains on a creaking windowsill; ghosts — yes, ghosts — haunt the neighborhood. This is, almost stanza-for-stanza, the stuff of "Because I Could Not Stop For Death." Had Dickinson gone to the matinée screening I attended at Dana Auditorium, I'm reasonably certain she would have given "Atlantics" a glowing review. ("Wild film — wild film — nice cinematography — too many people in this movie theater — I have to run back to my house!")

"Atlantics" takes place in a futuristic Dakar, Senegal, where economic disparities are ever-present. In the first scene, we learn that a skyscraper is being built by a team of construction workers who haven't been paid their wages for the last four months, and that they can now barely support their families. One of these workers is Suleiman (Ibrahima Traoré), who has recently fallen for another man's fiancée, Ada (Mame Bineta Sane). Ada, during her affair with Suleiman, starts questioning if she really wants to marry Omar (Babacar Sylla). Who can really blame her? Omar's a materialistic bore who swims laps at his private pool all day. Suleiman, on the other hand, has sandy trysts with Ada on a beach that looks out on the Atlantic Ocean. We know which of these guys is the real deal.

At this point, "Atlantics" writer and director Mati Diop suddenly throws in two plot twists. Out of the blue, Suleiman and his coterie sail away from Senegal, looking for a better life in Spain. Shortly after the workers leave, though, their wives and girlfriends start to hear a sad rumor: that the boat to Spain might have sunk. Suddenly, the community's women have lost their men, and the skyscraper's construction tycoon, who apparently doesn't feel the Bern, still won't pay his workers' families.

That's the state of things when Plot Twist Number Two comes in: the body-snatching ghosts. The spirits of the dead sailors, we find out, have decided to mentally possess their lovers at night. Ada alone is the spectral exception — she's much too busy adjusting to married life with Omar. But all the other women — seen mostly through the perspective of Ada's friend Fanta — spend their wee hours with their eyes rolled back into pale visages, breaking into houses and committing



COURTESY PHOTO/FRAKAS PRODUCTION

arson. Both man and woman, visionless yet all-seeing, Fanta's character seems to pay homage to Tiresias, the blind prophet of Greek myth who does not easily forget the sins of others.

Beyond the film's most obvious lesson — "don't hustle your employees or they will come back from the dead and destroy you" — there are subtler issues that "Atlantics" tackles. Ada, a religiously progressive Muslim, gets called "slut" several times in the film, and before Ada marries Omar, her in-laws require her to take a virginity test. It's all the more ironic when the ladies of "Atlantics" become zombies: although the women act seemingly crazy, it's only because they're being possessed by the men. We never know if we should admire the drowned sailors' empowering of Ada's posse, or if they're acting too clingy by transforming their wives into nocturnally indentured servants. Like the waves that crash onto the sand in the film's beginning, the moral ambiguity of "Atlantics" both pummels and refreshens.

"Atlantics" rocks, and I want to see another Mati Diop film soon. Especially clever is how Diop organizes the story. We're never confused in "Atlantics" because the film centers around a police investigation of an arson. As the cops learn the facts of the story, we learn with them.

Particularly notable is Amado Mbow's performance as the bumbling lead investigator of the case. (The role is a cliché, but it's a cliché that works.) His interrogation scenes with Ada crackle with chemistry, and one wishes that those two characters shared more screen time. Mbow's best scene in "Atlantics" is towards the end. When the detective figures out that he himself might have been possessed by a spirit, he wears that look of sudden terror you get when, gazing out of the window at your lawn, you spot Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein rummaging through the contents of your garbage. It's game over, man.

Reel critic: "Bojack Horseman"

By OWEN MASON-HILL
Arts & Academics Editor

Just before the show's final fade-to-black, Bojack Horseman (Will Arnett) recites a story to his longtime friend Diane Nguyen (Allison Brie). In the story, the pseudo leader of his prison block, Big Andy, forces the block to watch the same rom-com every week during movie night. After weeks of watching the same movie, Bojack hatches a scheme to destroy the DVD and, after his plan's success, suggests a new one. Instead of fixing the problem, Big Andy falls in love with the new flick and the cycle begins anew.

In one concisely written, only "kind of funny" anecdote, as Bojack says, the show's entire message pours out of the screen: though the appearance of life changes, shifting circumstances and situations, the essence of it is constant. There is no grand moment of rebirth when the baggage of a past self is left behind and forgotten; we carry our entire past, every decision we've ever made, with us every step of the way. We can never escape our faults, or be wholly free from them; we just have to accept ourselves and strive towards betterment. Life is what it is, and nothing more.

"Bojack Horseman" is a show of supreme collaborative effort between Raphael Bob-Waksberg, the show's creator, and the actors and actresses he employs to great effect. This show could only have been made as an animation because the bounds of reality would only serve to restrict creative potential. Each character, whether they be a Persian cat agent, an asexual rabbit or a horse actor, is entirely unique and unforgettable, creating a world unlike any other. They seem to defy the trappings of archetype and stereotype.

Season 6 Pt. 2 finds Bojack in a period of reinvention; he has been sober for some time and has taken a teaching job at Wesleyan as a professor of acting; yet, his past is inescapable. From the opening credits, which focus on Bojack's face center-screen as he is confronted by the consequences of his past actions, the final season prompts Bojack and the viewer alike to grapple with the atrocities they have committed and witnessed. He is constantly telling people — and himself — that this is the "new Bojack," someone who has entirely moved on from his past self, but is this truly possible?

At points, it seems as though he has changed — he seems fulfilled and successful in his profession and cares about his students — but time and again, he reverts back to his old self. After scandalous allegations of his involvement in the death of his "Horsin' Around" co-star Sarah Lynn's (Kristen Schaal), Bojack conducts an interview with Biscuits Braxby (Daniele Gaither) to tell the truth on live TV, yet even the

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Reel critic: "Bojack Horseman"

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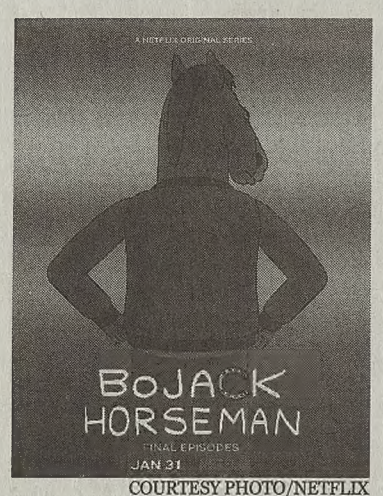


COURTESY PHOTO/NETFLIX

interview is shot on a replica soundstage set of his home hours before it airs. Fueled by the reviews of a "successful" first interview, Bojack pushes for a second against the wishes of his longtime agent and former girlfriend Princess Carolyn (Amy Sedaris), believing that he has "won." When he is in the steady structure of routine, Bojack can maintain his new self, yet under pressure, he folds and reverts back, erasing years of character reconstruction.

"Bojack Horseman" is at its filmic zenith when it recognizes and reverses the expectations of its viewership. Its self-awareness is unparalleled. This season sees Diane in her attempts to simultaneously battle depression and write her book of memoirs, her agent selling her on the idea that "sad is the new fun." Instead, she writes — in her own words — a "middle-grade detective fiction series," starring spunky protagonist Ivy Tran. For years, Diane has considered writing her memoirs, believing she must publish her book in order for the trauma, abuse and neglect of her youth to be "good damage," but ultimately finds herself altogether questioning the notion of good damage. Life isn't a perfectly written narrative that succinctly resolves all our problems in a single season, and the irony of this is not lost on "Bojack Horseman." It is entirely unique in its refusal to resolve its characters' problems, forcing them to carry the weight of their failures with them just as they would in real life.

The final season of "Bojack Horseman" is the most artistically adventurous of the series. It creates a completely new style of animation for Diane's internal conversations with her book's protagonist and depicts a talent show of friends and family for Bojack as quite literally faces his past. These episodes are not artistic feats that draw attention solely to the talent of the show's creators; they are purposeful alterations of style that present information the most clearly and effectively.

"Bojack Horseman" has quickly become my favorite TV show for its constant reinvention, its seemingly limitless artistic imagination and its unflinching capacity to sucker punch me with a beautiful line of devastating monologue when I least expect it. The greatest compliment I can offer this show is that it is the only one that I watch both the intro and end credits for every time. "Bojack Horseman" remains a pillar of animation that draws its strength from its ability to make the nonsensical more grounded than any other television reality I've seen. I cannot recommend a show more highly than this. Please go out and watch it so that I can stop bringing it up at every party I attend.

"We've got something to say": The 2020 Spencer Prize Grand Championship

COURTESY PHOTO/ TODD BALFOUR

By DALEELAH SALEH
Contributing Writer

"Learning with love is transformative," professed Arthur Martins '22.5, one of six students who participated in the 2020 Spencer Prize Grand Championship in Oratory. The contest took place on Tuesday, Feb. 18 in the Mahaney Center for the Arts in front of an audience of over 200 students, faculty and community members who gathered to hear students deliver six-minute speeches on myriad topics such as xenophobia, imposter syndrome and ableism. One first-year from each commons competed, including Aubrianna Wilson '23, Constance Gooding '23, who is this year's Grand Champion, Devon Hunt '23, Rain Ji '23, Citlali Aguilera-Rico '23, as well as Arthur Martins as a "wild card" competitor.

With the Spencer Prize competition, all the stories trace back to a single prompt: "Connect something you learned in a Middlebury class to something you care about." This prompt, which bridges academic study and personal narrative, is at the core of the Spencer Prize experience. Not only does it highlight what students learned in their classes during the first semester, it also allows community members to get a glimpse into experiences and stories they might not otherwise hear about in day-to-day conversations.

"Making personal connections to what you're studying is just as important as receiving good grades," said finalist Citali Aguilera-Rico. "Looking at your Middlebury experience solely through the lens of academia will blind you to the personal and emotional development you can experience through learning."

An aspect that differentiates the Spencer Prize Grand Championship from other events centered around public speaking is that it is only open to first-years and first-year Febs — and there is a nomination process. Professors nominate students in the fall.

"A lot of people who might not compete [do] so because someone on the faculty suggests them, which is a sign of recognition and honor," said Dana Yeaton, the director of Oratory Now. After being nominated, they are officially invited to participate in the competition. If they agree to do so, they go through a qualifying round hosted in their Commons during J-Term.

There are five qualifying rounds, and this year there were 48 total participants. At the end of each Commons Championship, one champion emerges victorious in addition to two runner-ups, all of whom are voted on by a panel of volunteer faculty judges. Each Commons Championship also results in a speaker crowned the "people's choice" winner, voted on by the audience members.

"There's something almost magical about everyone coming together in a Commons lounge on a cold winter night to listen to their peers talk about something they care about (and to enjoy the hot chocolate bar)," said Yeaton. Over the course of the night, students are able to build connections with each other as they find common ground in the messages and stories told through the speeches.

Oratory Now, a student-driven, faculty-directed organization founded in 2014, focuses on training and research in oral expression. It began producing the Spencer Prize both "for Midd Kids to feel like they're a part of a speaking culture" as well as to help students speak more eloquently in class, according to Yeaton. The Spencer Prize was named as a tribute to the late Professor Emeritus of History and former college trustee John Spencer. Over the course of his thirty-five years at the college, Spencer was known for his emphasis on oratory expression in the classroom and his J-Term workshops that focused on helping students become better speakers.

The Spencer Prize Grand Championship has become so successful in its three year existence that the College has given it formal recognition. Specifically, Old Chapel recently fully endowed the competition in perpetuity, which means that even if Oratory Now stopped existing as an organization, the competition would still have funding, and would likely be picked up by the SGA or another group on campus in order to ensure that it stayed running.

The expansion of Spencer's operational team has contributed to its success. Compared to last year, there were a number of small improvements that enhanced the overall experience. For example, the Middlebury Mamajamas, a gender-inclusive a Capella group, opened and closed the Championship this year,, singing four songs in total. At first, the connection between a Capella and personal speeches might not be all that clear, but Yeaton explained that in many ways, singing is just another form of story-telling.

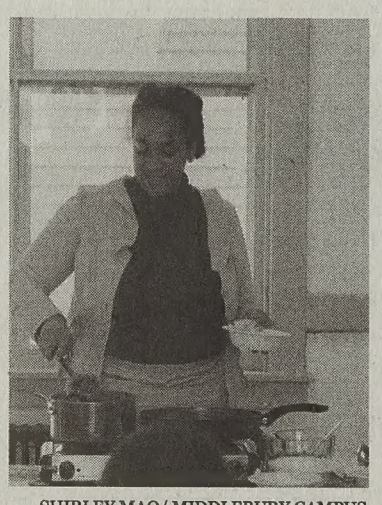
Roni Lezama '22, the 2019 Grand Champion, co-emceed the event alongside GiGi Hogan '22. Both are Head Coaches with Oratory Now. The Spencer Prize's lasting impact is its ability to continually involve its participants in mentoring future generations of public speakers. Oratory Now is training 55 coaches this Spring; nearly all the new coaches are first-years that were engaged in Spencer over J-term. In addition, many of the people on the production team for Spencer this year participated in the competition the year before or saw the show.

My biggest takeaway from the Spencer Prize Competition? Your story matters and your voice is powerful. Be brave enough to speak your truth; you never know who it could resonate with and impact.

Editor's Note: Rain Ji '23 is an Arts & Academics editor at The Middlebury Campus. She was not involved in the editting of this article.

LAS NIETAS DE NONÓ DISCUSSES EQUITY POST-HURRICANE

By NINA NG
Staff Writer



SHIRLEY MAO/ MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

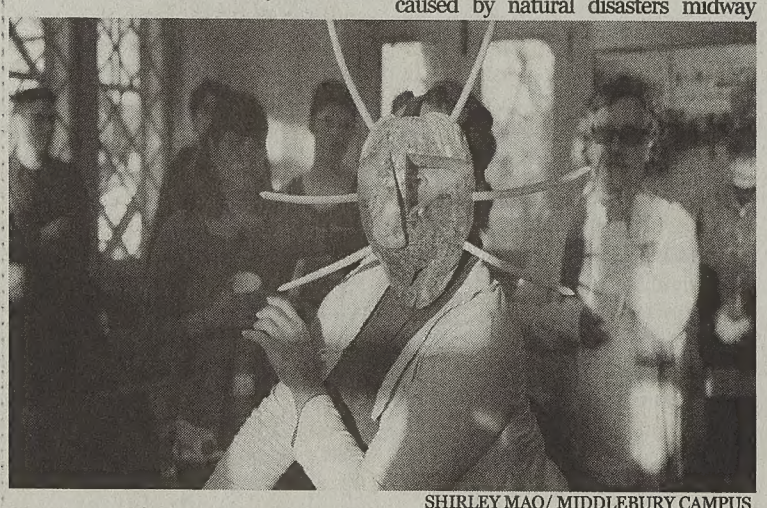
Amidst frigid temperatures on campus last Friday, Las Nietas de Nonó delivered a beautifully heartwarming performance titled "Manifestaciones en Periodo de Caza" ("Demonstration During Hunting Season"). A duo from Puerto Rico, sisters Mulowayi and Mapenzi Nonó discussed the economic, social and political aftermath of Hurricane Maria, which devastated Puerto Rico in September of 2017. Presenting chiefly in Spanish, the sisters cooked, performed and chatted with a small crowd gathered in the Coltrane lounge.

Upon entering, the aromatic fragrance of sizzling food greeted the audience. The sisters offered drinks alongside fried cassava cakes topped with a rich sauce made from vegetables and peanuts. Immediately, the room became more intimate as a warm, welcoming ambience flooded the room.

After Mapenzi turned off the stove, the mood changed suddenly as the room drew to a soft hush. Sounds of a waterfall echoed in the background as Mapenzi Nonó entered, carrying a potted plant. Mulowayi, standing to the side, uttered, "espacio para la planta" (space for the plant), telling audience members to move aside and let Mapenzi through. The waterfall served as a symbol of home and of Puerto Ricans' sense of ownership of their natural homeland.

Weaving quickly through the crowd, Mapenzi entered dressed in bright linens aflutter and a mask on her face. At that moment, Mapenzi's graceful movement dispersed the grid of previously neatly-seated audience, demonstrating the displacement of Puerto Ricans after the devastation left behind by Hurricane Maria.

Mapenzi highlighted the pain caused by natural disasters midway through the performance by pulling on a sheet and huddling herself in the corner of the room, in stark contrast with the confidence displayed earlier in her walk. In describing their performance, the sisters emphasized Puerto Ricans' cultural displacement in the aftermath of the hurricane. The mask Mapenzi donned was made of coconut shell, a reuse of existing materials which represents the community's resourcefulness in a trying time.



SHIRLEY MAO/ MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Following the performance, the sisters presented videos of individuals affected by the insufficient relief provided by the U.S., showcasing the political implications of food and resource scarcity. For months, the sisters explained, Puerto Ricans lived merely on military food, and even potatoes were precious commodities. As Mulowayi describes the push for "la cultura sostenible" (sustainable culture), the words take on a new meaning as viewers learned how a modified way of living could not only use resources to a fuller extent but also bring people closer together. In describing iguanas in Puerto Rican culture, for example, Las Nietas de Nonó shed fresh light on how a modern culinary adaptation impacted local culture: these recipes were developed to incorporate the reptile's body into food and its skin into art. In the words of Mulowayi herself, "food is always a reflection of what happens in Puerto Rico politically, socially [and] economically." The performance shows exactly that, giving voice to a struggle with sustenance.

As the session drew to a close, Las Nietas discussed their future aspirations, engaging in a direct conversation with the audiences. Their interactive, multimedia performance is an ongoing project that continues to be adapted and developed as it is performed. It will come to completion in a few months as the sisters work on building their story to spark appreciation of, contributions to and support for marginalized culture. The project will culminate in a final performance in Puerto Rico this summer.

SHIRLEY MAO/ MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

DON'T MISS THIS

Juana Gamero de Coca Lecture Series: Using the sciences with the humanities

Professor Brandon Baird and a group of students (including our wonderful Editor-in-Chief Sabine and Managaing Editor James) participated in an effort to promote the Mayan language K'iche' in Guatemala during J-term. In addition to visiting schools, disseminating materials, they also produced a national radio program by citing the various benefits of bilingualism.

Thursday, Feb. 27 | 4:30 – 6:30pm HillCrest 103

David Finckel, cello and Wu Han, piano

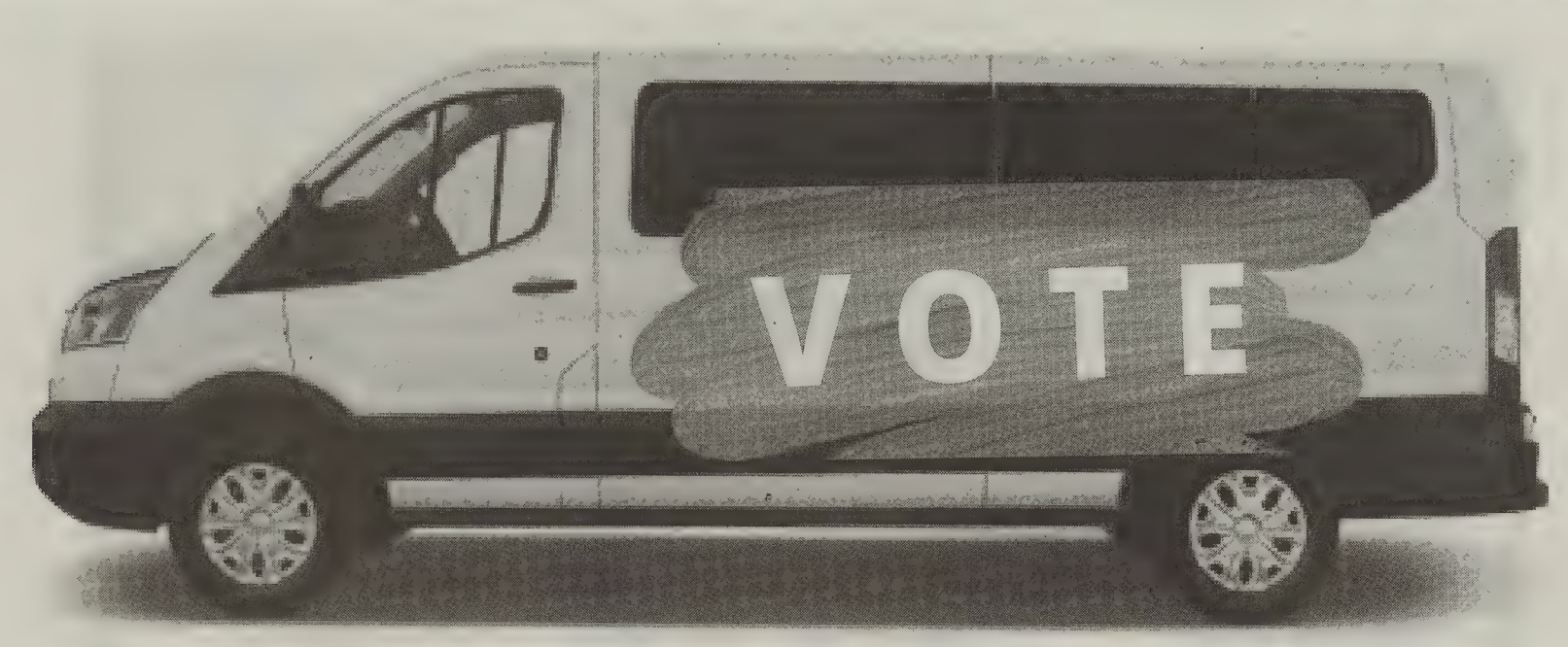
David Finckel will give his 40th performance at Middlebury with famous pianist Wu Han, his wife. The program includes Beethoven, Debussy, Mendelsoohn and Chopin. The couple, regarded by the New York Times as "chamber music's busy power couple," will also perform the world premiere of Pierre Jalbert, a Vermont-raised, prize-winning composer.

Friday, 2/28, 7:30-9:30pm, Mahaney Arts Center, Robison Concert Hall

Hirschfield International Film Series: The Whistlers

Work of Romanian writer and director Corneliu Porumboiu, "The Whistlers" is yet another time-shifting crime caper with bright colors. The movie explores the delicate relationship between a cynical cop and an international group of gangsters who speak a secret whistling language.

Saturday, 2/29, 8 :00– 10:30pm Dana Auditorium



NEED A RIDE TO THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY?

MIDD VOTE

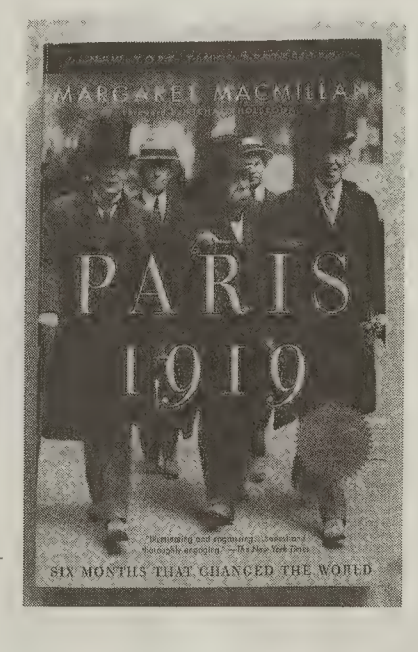
Don't miss your chance to vote
for your preferred presidential candidate.
Free van rides leaving ADK Circle hourly
from 8:00am to 6:00pm.
Town of Middlebury votes
from 7:00-7:00 at 154 Creek Road.

CHARLES S. GRANT MEMORIAL LECTURE

The Long Shadow of the Great War and the Paris Peace Conference

Margaret MacMillan

Emeritus Professor of International History, University of Oxford; Professor of History, University of Toronto



Margaret MacMillan, one of the most well-known historians of our time, will deliver the next Charles S. Grant Memorial Lecture. Professor MacMillan teaches at the University of Toronto, and she is the emeritus Professor of International History and former Warden of St. Antony's College at the University of Oxford. Her books include *Paris 1919: Six Months that Changed the World* (which won the Samuel Johnson prize), *The Uses and Abuses of History, History's People: Personalities and the Past*, and the prize-winning *The War that Ended Peace: The Road to 1914*.

Tuesday, March 3, 2020 • 7:30 p.m.
Sunderland Language Center, Dana Auditorium

EVENT SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH

KICK-OFF BONFIRE & FIREWORKS • ROSS LAWN	8-10 PM
TRIVIA NIGHT • CROSSROADS	10 PM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH

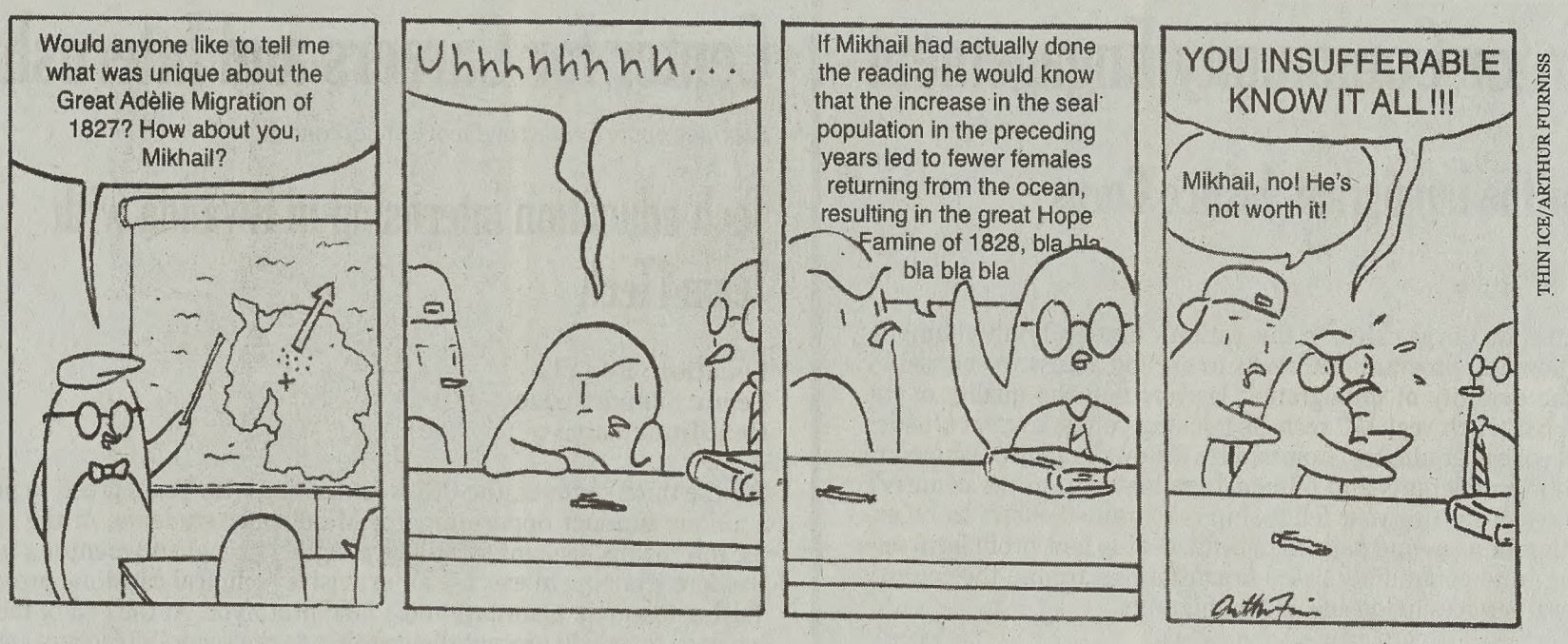
DOG SLEDDING • BATTELL BEACH	1-4 PM
ICE SCULPTING • BATTELL BEACH	1-4 PM
FOOD TRUCKS • PEARSONS LOT	1-4 PM
HOT COCOA • WILSON CAFE & CROSSROADS	1-6 PM
INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL • WILSON HALL	7-9 PM
SILENT DANCE PARTY • MCCULLOUGH LAWN	7-11 PM
COMEDY SHOW • CROSSROADS	9-10:30 PM
BLOCK PARTY • RIDGELINE WOODS	10 PM- 12 AM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29TH

BUSES TO SNOWBALL • ADIRONDACK CIRCLE	9 AM-5 PM
HISTORIC MIDDLEBURY MOVIES • CROSSROADS	12-6 PM
HOT COCOA • WILSON CAFE & CROSSROADS	1-6 PM
WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY PLAYOFF GAME • KENYON ARENA	1-3PM
GREAT GATSBY SCREENING • WILSON HALL	3-5 PM
MEN'S ICE HOCKEY PLAYOFF GAME • KENYON ARENA	4-6 PM
ICE SKATING SHOW • KENYON ARENA	7-8:30 PM
WINTER BALL FT. DJ EARWORM • NELSON ARENA	9:30 PM-1 AM

SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST

ICE SKATING SHOW • KENYON ARENA	2-3:30 PM


Would anyone like to tell me what was unique about the Great Adèlie Migration of 1827? How about you, Mikhail?
Uhhhhhhhh...
If Mikhail had actually done the reading he would know that the increase in the seal population in the preceding years led to fewer females returning from the ocean, resulting in the great Hope Famine of 1828, bla bla bla bla bla
YOU INSUFFERABLE KNOW IT ALL!!!
Mikhail, no! He's not worth it!
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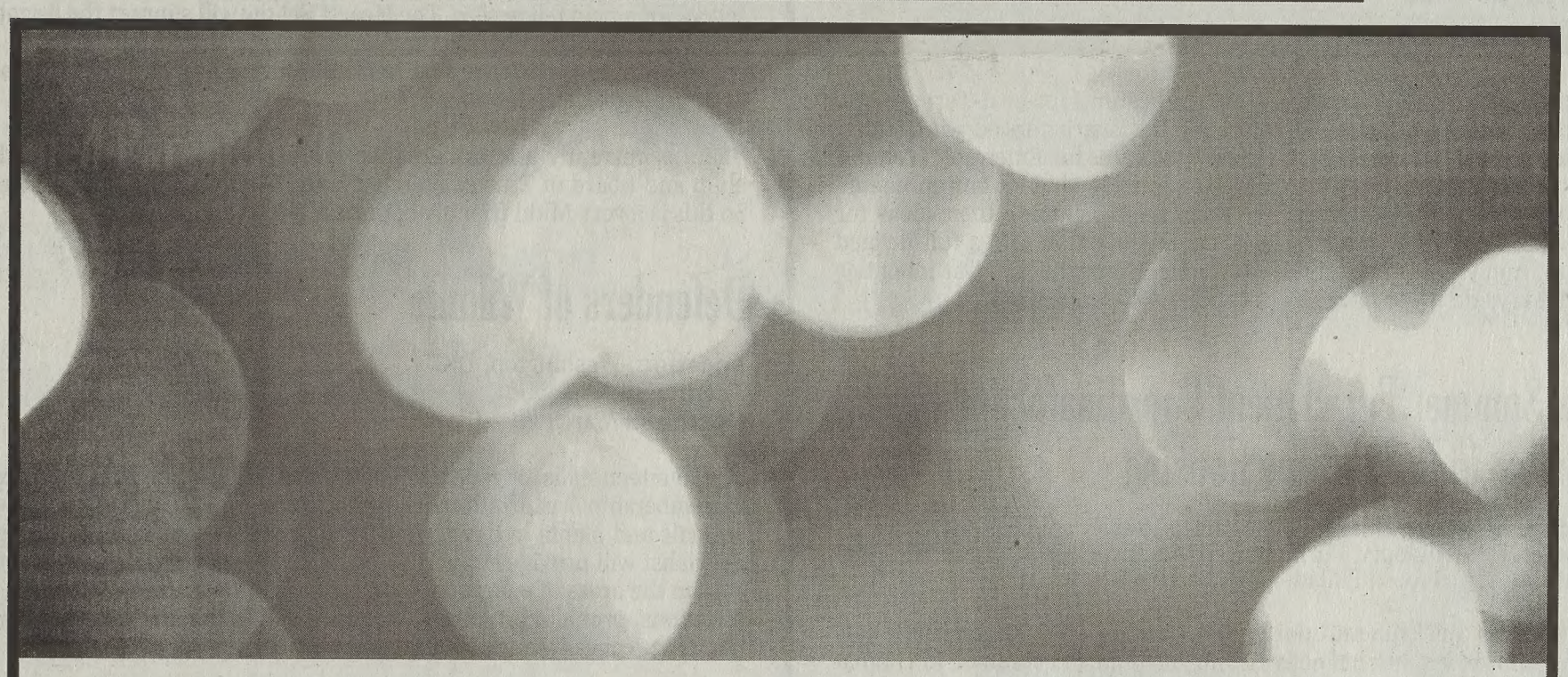

What are your plans this

SUMMER?

• EARN CREDIT
• EARN MONEY
• GAIN EXPERIENCE

As a Middlebury College undergrad, you can access incredible summer opportunities across the country and around the world.

And be sure to look into the many funding opportunities available.

For a list of summer programs, visit **go.middlebury.edu/middsummer**.

Center for Community Engagement

Apply for the Immigrant Justice Corps

Deadline: March 13

Immigrant Justice Corps (IJC), is the nation's first and only immigration legal fellowship program. IJC seeks to expand access to counsel by increasing the quantity of immigration lawyers and the quality of the immigration bar. Each year IJC recruits talented young lawyers (Justice Fellows) and college graduates (Community Fellows), many of whom are first-generation immigrants and bilingual graduates from the country's top universities, for a two-year fellowship. IJC trains Fellows to be experts in immigration law and pairs them with leading non-profit legal services providers and community based organizations around the country to provide legal services to low income immigrants.

For eligibility requirements and application components, visit the CCE website. This application has specific instructions, so read the description carefully.

Contract info@justicecorps.org with any application questions.

Attend the info session to Volunteer at Bayada Hospice

Date: Saturday, Feb. 29, 11:30 a.m.–:30 p.m.
Location: Ilsley Library (75 Main Street) in the Community Room

Hospice is not just about sitting vigil. It's the ability to bring joy to families and patients through music, reading, letter-writing, and therapy pets. Hospice also offers one-time opportunities, as well as scheduled opportunities that may last a week or a month. The possibilities are open to suggestion from volunteers, based on their abilities and interests, including direct service and administrative help.

We are limited only by our imaginations. If a student has a particular interest or project, I can almost guarantee we would be able to find a niche for them. Well, perhaps not for heavy metal in a skilled nursing facility at midnight (or maybe so!) – but you get my drift. We are flexible, and we work with whatever schedules are available, whether it be a one-off, an hour/week, an hour/month. All volunteer work is valuable.

Please contact Martha Perantoni at mperantoni@bayada.com with any questions. There will be light refreshments and a pet therapy dog at the info session.

Apply for Middlebury Entrepreneurs JTerm Course

Deadline: Friday, Nov. 1, 11:59 p.m.

The Innovation Hub is now accepting applications for its J-Term course Middlebury Entrepreneurs. This is a visiting instructor-led winter term course taught by the team at the Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies (VCET). The goal of the class is to provide student entrepreneurs with the tools and knowledge necessary for developing their ideas for a new business, tech company or social organization into a full-fledged startup. Apply now at go/MiddE20. Email Meron Benti '19 at mbenti@middlebury.edu if you have any questions in the meantime.

Be a Summer Enrichment Coordinator for youth who live in low income housing

Deadline: Rolling (with preference given to early applications)
Locations: Middlebury, Burlington, White River Junction and Bennington, Vt.; Boston, Mass.; Philadelphia, Pa.

This Summer Enrichment Coordinator position ensures our youth participate in fun, intentional activities throughout the summer to combat the summer slide (which accounts for over half of the achievement gap for children in poverty). Utilize your knowledge or learn how to plan and facilitate youth programming, build meaningful relationships with youth between the ages of 5–18, fundraise ,and have daily adventures.

This is an AmeriCorps position on a stipend. DREAM is committed to serving our youth with culturally appropriate programming. We seek members who contribute to the diversity and excellence of The DREAM Program and who foster an inclusive environment.

Contact Mel Hurlbut at mhurlbut@dreamprogram.org with questions or concerns.

Volunteer at the Vermont Adaptive in their Pushback Program

Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.
Location: The Middlebury Recreational Department

Pushback is a supported exercise program for people with Parkinson's Disease. People with PD need extra support for meaningful exercise and when they get it, they are super grateful, feel better, move better and have a better quality of life.

Volunteer exercise partners are essential to Pushback! As a volunteer, you will help provide 1:1 support to players, offer encouragement and aid coaches throughout classes. It only takes a little bit of training to become a partner and it is super beneficial to both participants and volunteers.

This volunteer opportunity is great exposure for students in the health sciences and psychology fields. For more information contact Molly Tobin at mtobin.smcvt@gmail.com.

Center for Careers and Internships

See these opportunities and more at go/handshake.

Tech education internship in Rwanda with Team4Tech

Location: Rwanda
Term: Summer 2020
Deadline: March 1

For the third summer, the CCI is partnering with Team4Tech to provide a unique summer opportunity for Middlebury students. At the start of the internship, each intern will be assigned to lead and mentor a team of Gashora students to execute an extensive technical capstone project requiring research, planning, and a final prototype. At the end of the project, each team will present their project to the school's teachers and staff as part of 5th Annual Gashora Projects Exhibition Day prior to departing Rwanda.

The interns will also organize a one-week technology boot camp for a select group of the Gashora Girls. The objective of the boot camp is to teach the students new ICT skills (for example: Programming and Coding, Robotics, Graphic or 3D design, Security, among others) that will help them in their future careers.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) internships

Location: Various
Term: Summer 2020
Deadline: March 6

The CCI will fund six NOAA internships with $3,000 grants each. Sophomores, juniors, and senior Febs from a variety of majors and interests are encouraged to apply for any of the 23 exciting offerings related to research on whales, dolphins, turtles, coral reefs, rivers, oceans, climate change and more. Locations include Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, and Washington.

Contact thimmeli@middlebury.edu for additional information.

Hearst Media

Location: New York, N.Y.
Term: Full-time job
Deadline: March 8

The Hearst Corporation Office of General Counsel is seeking a bright college senior wishing to gain paralegal experience before entering law school for a paid fellowship. The Hearst Fellow will support the litigation group on subpoena and other media litigation matters, and will have the opportunity to experience first-hand the varied practice of a fast-paced in-house legal department.

There is currently a Midd alumnae in the position, and another Midd alum and Board of Trustee member is the Chief Legal Officer at Hearst. So this is a very Midd friendly opportunity!

Defenders of Wildlife

Location: Washington, D.C.
Term: Full-time job
Deadline: March 20

Use your tech skills for good! Defenders of Wildlife is a national, non-profit membership organization dedicated to the protection of all native wild animals and plants in their natural communities. The Software Support Specialist will provide support to National Headquarters and field office staff in the areas of computer software to include operating systems, applications, problem investigation, group and individual training, identifying root causes of problems and formulating solutions to them.

Scribe Partners

Location: Needham, Mass.
Term: Full-time job
Deadline: Rolling

Scribe Partners offers support services to physicians of all specialties. This is an extremely exciting and invaluable opportunity to gain invaluable insight into the daily life of a physician. The scribe's core responsibility is to capture accurate and detailed documentation (handwritten, electronic, or otherwise) of the encounter in a timely manner and support the physician during the patient visit.

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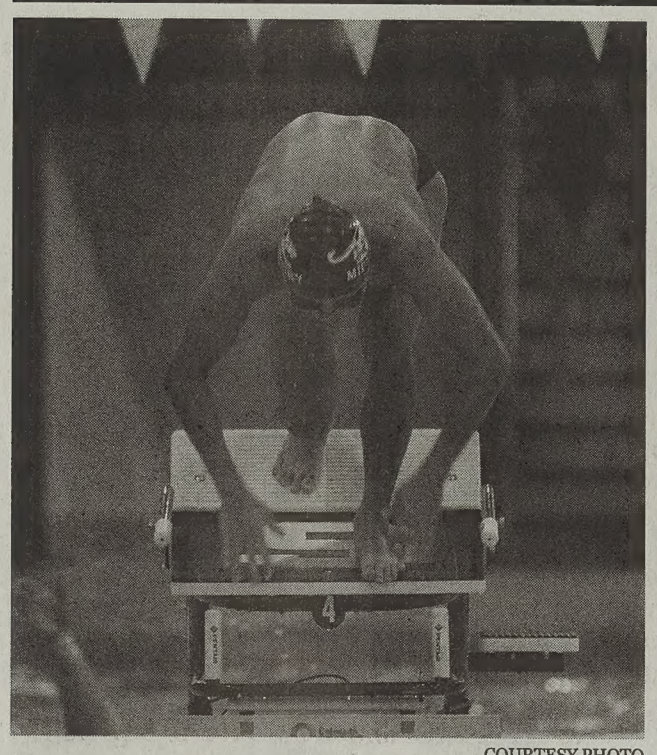

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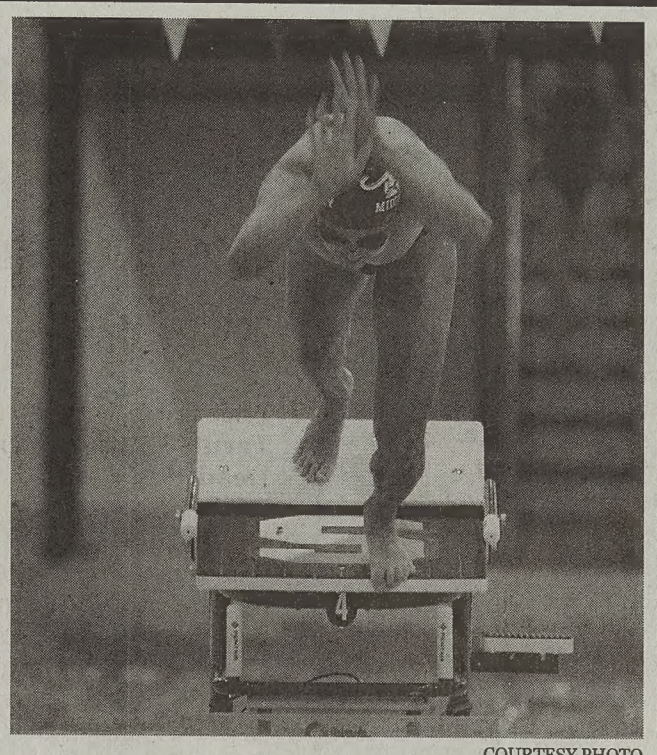

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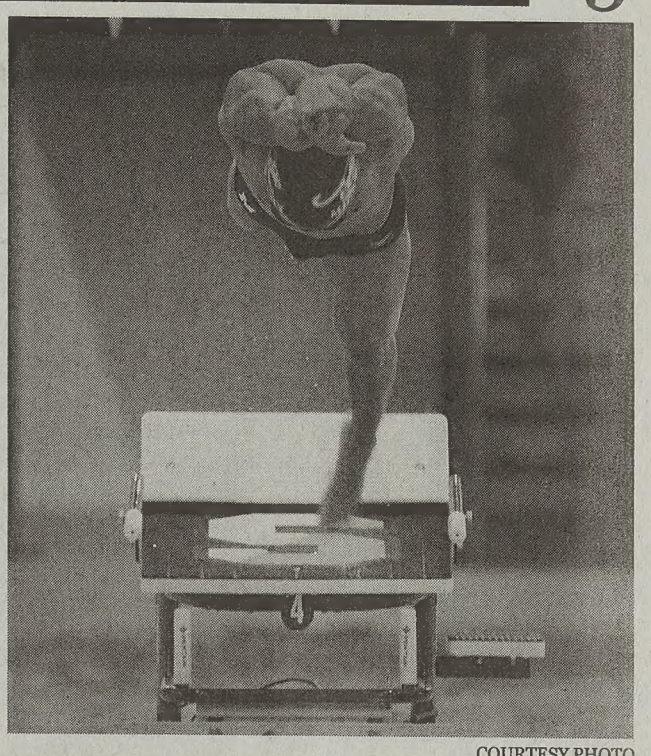


COURTESY PHOTO

Men's swimming and diving finishes 8th at NESCACs

By MIGUEL ESPINOSA
Senior Sports Editor

In sports, proximity breeds rivalry. Such a dynamic does not exclude itself from the NESCAC; Williams and Middlebury sit two hours apart from each other on Route 9.

The men's swimming and diving teams ventured to Williamstown to compete in the NESCAC Championships, which was hosted by their purple-and-gold rival, on Thursday, Feb. 20. Ultimately, Williams dominated at their own pool and grabbed first place with 1987.5 points. The Panthers finished in eighth place with 565 points. Tufts placed second with 1787.5 points and Amherst third with 1386.5 points.

One notable performance during the four-day meet included a seventh-place finish in the 400-yard medley relay by **Ben Merzo '23**, **Bryan Chang '22**, **Will Panos '20**, and **Corey Jalbert '21** on Friday. The squad clocked in at 3:26:25. Diver **Jason Rickenbacher** '23 also posted a ninth-place finish during the one-meter diving board that same day. On Saturday, Alec Wilson took eighth in the 1,000-yard free event and recorded a time of 9:45.75. The quartet of Merz, Chang, Panos, and Jalbert concluded the Panthers' weekend on Sunday with a fifth-place finish in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

"My swims weren't exactly the times I was hoping for, but it was great scoring points for the team and representing Middlebury," said Wilson, when asked to assess his performance during NESCACs. "I was able to race against some outstanding swimmers, and seeing just how strong the competition is getting is really motivating me to hit the off-season hard next year."

Wilson also gathered inspiration from the resilience of his teammates, especially when Coach Rueppel left the meet on Thursday because of a medical emergency.

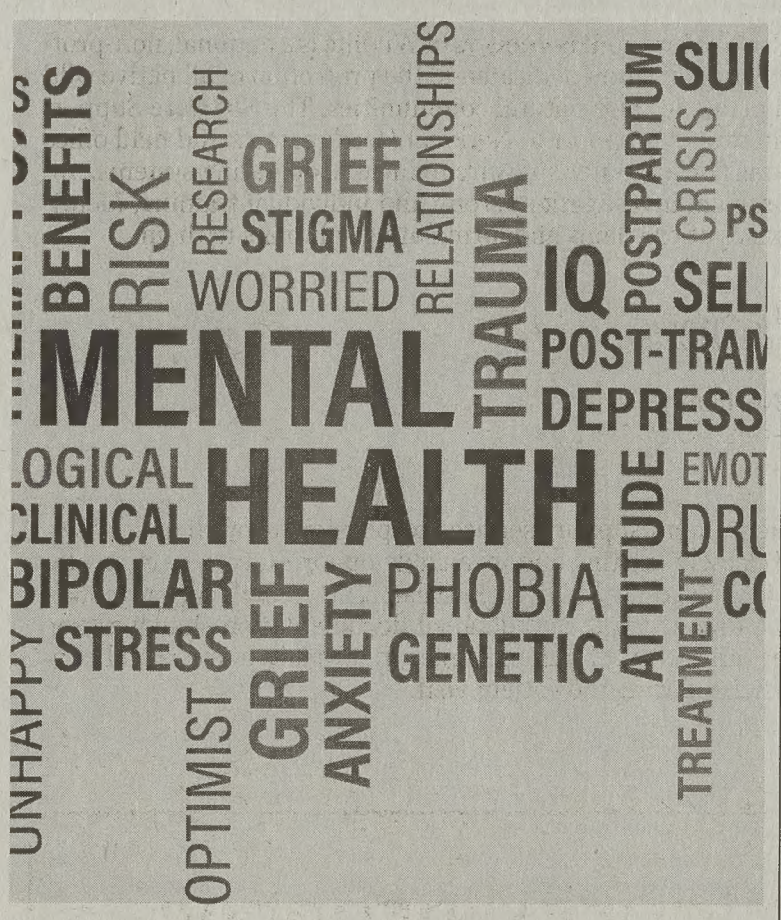
"I am really proud of our team for the mental game we held over the meet," he said. "With Coach having to leave the meet so early, we had a very unique challenge on our hands. We went into every session ready to race for him, and I think we saw some really fast times as a result."

A final source of energy may have come from the bleachers. Alongside the swimmers' parents, many members of the women's squad brought their support to Williams' natatorium.

"Watching the men's team compete is exciting because the women's season is over, so we can completely focus on cheering for their races," said **Audrey Kelly** '21. "Almost the entire team went down to Williams to watch and the energy in the stands was very high. The men's team competed really well and I know they appreciated us coming."

COURTESY PHOTO

NESCAC promotes Mental Health Awareness Week



By Henry Wilhelm
Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) President

For schools across our conference, this week is NESCAC Mental Health Awareness Week. But what does "awareness" mean? It's a question the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, or SAAC, asked ourselves as we planned the events for the week. Being aware of your mental health is about taking time to reflect, treating your feelings as real and valid and about understanding that, especially at Middlebury, as much as everyone else may look like they have it figured out, everyone is going through something. But there's more to this week than mental health awareness. We want to promote concrete ways to take care of your mental health, and there's a number of activities planned to do it. Go to a spin class on Thursday, or a yoga class on Friday afternoon. Support your classmates by wearing green on Friday, or cheer at any of the athletic events this weekend. Try to keep your phones away. Lastly, we want to note that one of the best ways to support your mental health is through service and appreciation. Take the time to enjoy the beauty of the mountains, and go out of your way to thank a custodian, dining hall employee, coach, or friend. Find the things that work for you, and hopefully each week moving forward can be its own Mental Health Week.

Women's hockey prolongs winning streak after weekend in Maine

By MAX PADILLA
Photo Editor

The Panthers finished up their regular season this weekend, snatching two away wins against Bowdoin. The defeat of the Polar Bears cemented Middlebury's incredible season, as they won the first game 3–0 and the second 3–1. The women's squad is still ranked first in the NESCAC conference, winning 14 conference games and 19 total games. They're also ahead of the second ranked team, the Colby Mules, by five games. Additionally, the victories against Bowdoin ensured that the blue and white remained perfect on the penalty kill this season. They'll begin their postseason this Saturday at home against Trinity, who is currently ranked eighth of nine teams in the NESCAC.

MICHAEL BORNSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

MICHAEL BORNSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Men's basketball fails to find way past Trinity in NESCAC Quarterfinals

By MICHAEL SEGEL
Sports Writer

Middlebury fell to Trinity in the NESCAC Quarterfinals on Saturday. It was a quick start for the Panthers as they started off on a 5–0 streak. However, that was about as good as it got for the boys as Trinity went on a 12–2 run, followed by an 11–3 run later in the half that gave Trinity a 32–19 edge. By the end of the first half, it was 48–34 Trinity.

Trinity did not let up in the second half, enjoying a 20+ point advantage for most of the rest of the game, and would win by a final score of 100–82.

Jack Farrell '21 accounted for 29 points to lead the team, **Tommy Eastman** '21 led in rebounds with 9, and **Griffin Kornaker** '21 led in assists with 6. Middlebury will learn their seed in the NCAA Tournament on March 2nd.

MICHAEL BORNSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Men's hockey rejuvenated after 2–0 weekend

By BLASE SIEFER
Sports Writer

The men's hockey team won both of their home games this past weekend, defeating Amherst and Hamilton in the final two regular season games of the year. With these two victories, the Panthers (10–11–3, 8–7–3) snatched the No. 4 seed in the NESCAC tournament, earning home court advantage in the quarterfinals this weekend.

The past week's action kicked off on Friday, Feb. 24, when Amhest came to town for the first time of the season. The last time the two teams played, the Panthers narrowly edged out the Mammoths, 3–2. Men's puck started off the game strong, gaining a 1–0 lead just 2 minutes into the first period. The goal was a career first for **Paddy Mangan** '23, whose shot deftly evaded defenders. In the subsequent stanza, the Mammoths tied things up at 1–1, setting the stage for an intense third period. Neither team disappointed. Halfway through the third, **Matt Danner** '21 snatched a loose puck out of the air and fed a pass to **Mitchell Allen** '20, who beat a defender and skillfully tucked away a shot, giving the Panthers the 2–1 lead. Roughly five minutes later, however, the Mammoths responded, tying the game up at 2–2. The tie lifted the game into overtime, which only lasted a mere 23 seconds; after **Antoine Belisle** '23 saw his shot saved by Amherst's goalie, captain **Owen Powers** '20 slid and knocked in the rebound, sending the Panthers into a celebration huddle.

The following day, the Panthers hosted the Hamilton Continentals, who entered the game having won six out of their last seven matches. Despite being outshot (29 to 20), the Panthers managed to tuck away a season-high six goals against the Continentals, while finding a way to maintain a clean sheet, credit to netminder **Brian Ketchabaw** '20. The Panthers scored in clumps, netting three goals in the opening eight minutes and two goals in the final half of the third period. Powers was among the goalscorers for the Panthers, who ends the regular season with 22 points, the highest of any Panther.

The NESCAC tournament is slated to begin on Saturday, Feb. 29, when the fourth-seeded Panthers will host the fifth-seeded Wesleyan Cardinals. The Panthers are 1–1 against the Cardinals this season; despite falling 3–1 at home in January, they earned revenge in early February, edging the Cardinals, 4–1. Game time is set for 4 p.m.

NESCAC Men's Hockey Playoff Bracket

- No. 8 Connecticut College
- No. 1 Williams
- No. 7 Amherst
- No. 2 Trinity
- No. 6 Bowdoin
- No. 3 Hamilton
- No. 5 Wesleyan
- No. 4 Middlebury

Women's squash sneaks past NESCAC rival

By HEATHER BOEM
Sports Editor

Women's squash made the trek down to Yale this weekend to battle it out in the College Squash Association National Championships. Middlebury went 1–2 for the weekend, facing some of the top ranked teams in the nation.

First up on Friday, Feb. 21, the Panthers were tested by #10 University of Virginia (UVA) for the second time this season. While the match didn't go their way, **Virginia Schaus** '22, **Natasha Lowitt** '20, and **Caroline Arena** '23 were each able to snag a game from their second-seeded opponents.

The following day, Middlebury geared up to face #14 George Washington University (GW) in the semifinals. Having been edged out by the Colonials 6–3 in January, the Panthers tried to close the gaps that GW had capitalized on to nab the win. It was a nail-biting fight that came down to the very last match at the sixth spot after the Panthers knotted the match at 4–4. However, the Panthers run would be stopped as a Colonial came from behind to steal the win.

"We fought well against UVA," Lowitt said. "It really set us up well to take on George Washington. The match against GW was 4–4 and unfortunately, we lost the last match, but we were really proud of how everyone played. It was really exciting that we almost beat GW since we lost 6-3 earlier in the season."

Sunday, Feb. 22, was a NESCAC showdown, with the winnter grabbing the No. 15 final national ranking. The Panthers had some trouble with Bates during the regular season when they ultimately fell 6–3. But after a weekend of tough competition, Middlebury was up for the task. The women quickly picked up the first four matches as the Bobcats remained silent. The Bobcats narrowed the gap by two before the Panthers responded once more with back-to-back-to-back wins in the first and seventh slots. **Annie Glassie** '20 showed her experience as a veteran when she closed out the contest in her position without dropping a game.

"Beating Bates to end the season was really special because they have been such a rival all of my four years," Lowitt said. "Our team's love of the game and love for each other really showed this weekend."